

# BUSSEI SCRIPT

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VOLUME CXXVIII NO. 11

DECEMBER 2016

## Bodhi Tree? - Christmas Tree?

By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Resident Minister



As a Buddhist child in Christian America, I always felt awkward and uncomfortable in December. As a father, it became a challenge to explain the rationale of a Christmas Tree and gift exchange in a Buddhist family. How can we be part of an American tradition when we are not part of that belief system? It has become

apparent to me, that there is a basic difference in how we view the world. The prevailing sentiment in the Judeo-Christian West, is the notion of an **absolute truth**. For those who adhere to this system, it is paramount that one views it in the vision of their prophet. Those who differ from that perspective, are deemed outside of that system. The limitations of this system, is that different prophets have prescribed different views. Thus we see conflict among the divergent ideologies of the Abrahamic traditions (Christians, Jews, Muslims).

On the other hand, Buddhists recognize and honor the diversity of perspectives regarding Truth. We have the example of the blind men voicing various parts of an elephant as the truth of the whole elephant. This perspective allows the short-sighted opinions of one human to be as valid as another. Thus there appears to be little conflict among Buddhists sects and indeed toward other religions.

For a Buddhist, a Christmas tree may be seen as a Bodhi tree. It is this tolerance and acceptance of the "other" that marks one strength of Buddhism. It is only a weakness or failure in the eyes of the "one-view-of-truth" system. This profound view of truth has guided many countries of the East. I feel that there is a thirst for this view in America.

The recent election process demonstrated the problem of the "one-view-of-truth" system. Trump and his supporters focused on what he saw as not working well. I have been suggesting that a focus on what we don't have can engender a sense of discontent (*dukkha*). In contrast, by focusing on the elements and conditions that support us, we begin to appreciate the interconnected nature of all things that have made our lives possible. This awakening to our interdependence might inspire us to acknowledge this interdependence by supporting others. In contrast, the election demonstrated the insatiable needs of the ego.

Shin Buddhism has much to offer in this dilemma of the individual ego within society. On the surface, it is easy to identify candidate Trump with the dangers of his attachment to his ego. He selectively rejects some parts of our society and embraces other parts. His pejorative speech, conduct, and attitude made this clear. His binary assessments and shallow perception of complex issues also runs counter to the Buddhist view of a deep and broad reality that cannot be comprehended by a single individual. This opens up another dimension of Buddhist thought. We might realize that if we are disappointed with the election result, it is a reflection of our own ego attached, shallow views.

The Buddha taught the middle path and Shinran emphasized our inability to diminish our ego-centric biases. It seems that many supporters of Trump see themselves as victims of a changing global stage where they feel at the mercy of forces beyond their control. As their expectations of the status quo are unfulfilled, anger was projected toward outside forces. It may be difficult to admit that other segments of American society have endured these conditions for generations. What is missing is wisdom and compassion.

Wisdom would inform us that life continually changes, with little regard to individual welfare. The Buddha's wisdom is to teach that it is our **how we respond** to these changes that determine our discontent or satisfaction. The results of this election may be viewed as a human caused tsunami, that has damaged some of our most cherished principles of democracy. And if we feel that way, it must be addressed with the same determined effort of recovery from a natural disaster.

Compassion teaches us to feel what the other is feeling. Future decisions of this president, administration, and party will determine many factors that may only be seen by our children or grandchildren. Enjoying the good life now, may be viewed that it is at the cost of a long range view of sustainability. Trump must heal his divisive rhetoric of the campaign by demonstrating a humane inclusiveness in presidential and congressional legislation and not only by words. The meaning of his words seem to change with each news cycle.

As Buddhists, we can offer that a diverse view of reality is in harmony with all faiths at all times. We can compromise our own needs for the welfare of others, especially our children. The Buddhist path forward is to demonstrate that our "many-views-of-truth" insure that all voices are heard and respected. May Wisdom and Compassion prevail.

# DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<p>9 am — DS Staff Mtg.            10 am -- <b>Bodhi Day Service</b>            11:30 am -- Jr. YBA Chow Mein Luncheon Fundraiser            11:45 am -- BWA Mtg, CR</p>	<p>5 Temple Closed            7pm - Ways &amp; Means Mtg.</p>	<p>6 10:30 am – So. District Minister’s Mtg., LA Betsuin</p>	<p>7 10 am --Craft Day, DR            12 pm – Minyo Group,SH            1 pm – Shigin @Annex 1-2            6:30 pm – TAIKO Practice, AH            7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3, SH</p>	<p>8 6:45 pm – Board of Directors Mtg, CR</p>	<p>9 11 am -- Mochigome Rice Washing</p>	<p>10 11:30 am-- BWA Bonnekai            11 a.m. — Mochitsuki Prep            5 p.m. — Jr. YBA Installation dinner</p>
<p>11 NO SERVICE  <b>MOCHITSUKI</b>  <b>6 am — 3 pm</b></p>	<p>12 Temple Closed</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 12 pm – Minyo Group S.H.            1 pm – Shigin, Annex 1-2            6:30 pm – TAIKO Practice, A.H            7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3, SH</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 10 am – Koto Class, Sangha Hall</p>
<p>18 10 am - DS/Family Service            10 a.m. — Jr. YBA Recycling Day            11:00 am - Temple clean up and Omigaki (onajin cleaning)            Matsumae Kai Annual Party, noon AH (Private)</p>	<p>19 Temple Closed</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 10 am --Craft Day, DR            12 pm – Minyo Group, SH            1 pm – Shigin, Annex 1-2            6:30 pm – TAIKO Practice, A.H</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 TEMPLE CLOSED No Service</p>	<p>26 Temple Closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 12 pm – Minyo Group, SH            1 pm – Shigin, Annex 1-2            6:30 pm – TAIKO Practice, A.H            Mail Kaiho</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 7 p.m. —Joya-E Service            11:30 p.m. — Joya No Kane (bell ringing), Shelter Island,</p>
<p><b>Jan. 1, 2017</b>            10 a.m. --New Year’s Day Service (Shusho-E)</p>						

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving has come and gone. Now, its December!

Yes! One good thing is since it came a few days earlier this year, we will have a few more days to get ready for the holiday season.

I want to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable Thanksgivings day and weekend with family and friends.

Fall is my favorite time of year. It's a time when it's not too cold and usually not too hot (except our 90 to 95 degree weather last week) and is the calm before the hustle and bustle at the end of the year.

As November came so did the elections. We have all heard so many negative comments from people all over the U.S. and have seen riots on T.V. It's a scary time as the nation is split. Change can cause anxiety, anger and fear.

A couple of things that helped me feel some comfort was talking to others and knowing they feel the same way. We encouraged each other to do what we have control over and that is to be kind to one another. Reverend Wondra emphasized this in her Dharma School message about the Golden Chain at the Eitaikyo service. Also on our way to the Southern District Meeting in Gardena, I was able to talk with Rev. Kenji and he had some insight on understanding others and their behavior. We are lucky to have Dr. Reverend Kenji Akahoshi as our Resident Minister. He has a Masters in Psychology as well as all his other accomplishments. He is a great resource and I hope you get a chance to talk with him in the near future.

I look forward to December and our Mochitsuki on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. We hope all of you can come out and participate in this long time tradition of pounding rice and enjoying the company of our wonderful sangha.

In Gassho,  
LuAnn Lee

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## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met on November 13th -

1. The refurbished Onajin tables, damaged during shipping, will be returned to Japan for repair and are due back in April.
2. Condolences to the family of Umeko Kawamoto who passed away November 6, 2016.
3. Condolences to the family of Kimiye Tachiki who passed away October 27, 2016.
4. The Board approved the Assignment of Intellectual Property Agreement with Rev. Akahoshi
5. A negative Profit and Loss is projected at the end of the fiscal year.
6. Funding was approved for two of our Minister's Assistants to attend a December 10th seminar at the Jodo ShinShu Center.
7. The temple donated items for the JSSDT Gala Silent Auction.
8. BTSD will host the 2017 Southern District Dharma School Teachers League conference on Sept. 2, 2017.

## BWA NEWS

We all enjoyed hearing the wonderful message by Rev. Mutsumi Wondra, from the Orange County Buddhist Church, who was our guest speaker for the Eitaikyo/Lady Eshinni Memorial Services on Sunday, November 13. Her afternoon lecture was also enjoyed by many of our members.

The service was followed by our annual Chirashizushi Fundraiser Sale. A big "Thank You!" to everyone who came out to help on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to prepare the chirashi. Some of us are in the process of learning from our seasoned pros who have been doing the job all of these years. It's fun to learn and practice the art of chirashi making. Thank you also to Groups A & C who organized the chirashi making, and prepared the meals for our guests on Sunday. That was such a busy day! Thank you to Group C, who also hosted hospitality on that same day!

The craft group has been meeting every Wednesday in November to prepare for the sale at San Diego State University on Thursday, Dec. 1. We are still looking for helpers for that day. If you can help set up and/or take down, please contact Margo Spears. Beginning in December, we will be returning to our regular craft group schedule of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 10 am – 2 pm. Please join us to learn some new crafts, socialize with friends, and share in a delicious potluck lunch too!

Our famous Almond Brittle and Brittle Corn is now on sale! Please get them while they last, as they make terrific gifts for family and friends, near and far. It's also great as end of the year or thank you gifts for teachers, postmen, etc....

It's not too late to sign up for our annual Bonenkai, which is scheduled for Saturday, December 10, from 11:30 am, at the Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant, located in Mission Valley. Please let your Group leader know if you would like to attend. We will have a delicious lunch (\$10 per member/\$0 for members over 90 yrs old), do a \$10 gift exchange, and share some warm memories.

Mochitsuki this year will be on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, the day after our Bonenkai. Workers will be needed from 6 a.m. until the work is completed, maybe about 2 or 3 p.m. Please come when you are able and stay as long as you can. The more helpers we have, the faster the job will get done. It IS a lot of work, but one of the most enjoyable events at the temple too!

On December 18, following the Dharma School/Family service, a general temple cleanup and Butsugu no Omigaki (cleaning of shrine items) will begin at 11 a.m.

There are two ways to get to the BWA website: south-erndistrictbwa.weebly.com/, or through the direct link from the website for the temple at btbsd.net. Please take a peek to see what we've been doing.

Our meeting in December will be on the 4<sup>th</sup>, with Group C providing dessert or side dishes. We will be supporting the Jr. YBA fundraiser by purchasing their \$7 chow mein for our lunches that day. Hope to see you then!

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

At our November meeting, the staff voted to host the 2017 Southern District Dharma School Teachers League Conference on Saturday, September 2. Our first planning meeting will be on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 9 a.m. Please come out if you wish to help us plan this activity.

On Nov. 5, Richard Matsumoto attended the Southern District Dharma School Teachers Mini-Workshop, hosted by the Nishi Dharma School. The theme was *Origination of Pure Land Teachings* and was led by Rev. Kaz Nakata. Richard mentioned that it was good and very interesting. The next mini-workshop will be at the Orange County Buddhist Church on Saturday, February 12, 2017.

We wish to thank Rev. Mutsumi Wondra from the Orange County Buddhist Church who delivered a message to the Dharma School students at the temple's Eitaikyo Service on Nov. 13.

The annual bowling day was Sunday, November 27 at Kearny Mesa Bowl. Dharma School students bowled for free, and were joined by the adult members. Everyone had a great day of rolling strikes! There were no gutter balls since the rails were set up for the kids. Thank you to Leslie Seymour for making all the arrangements for this activity.

All students and families are encouraged to participate in the Bodhi Day Service on Sunday, Dec. 4. Bodhi Day commemorates Prince Siddhartha's enlightenment, becoming Sakyamuni Buddha.

Our students are getting ready for Mochitsuki that will take place on Sunday, December 11. The kids will be ready to help with the grinding, pounding, cooling and packaging mochi, and deliver the bags to the sales table.

In addition to the Bodhi Day service, there will be a family service on Sunday, Dec. 18. Following the service, please stay and help with the temple clean up as we clean the hondo and other parts of the temple in preparation for the New Year.

The next teacher-staff meeting will be on Sunday, December 4 at 8:45 a.m.

Gassho,

Avis Honda, Superintendent

## JR. YBA NEWS

We started November by hosting hospitality after the Dharma School/Family Service on Nov. 6. Thank you to the members who set up, hosted snacks and cleaned up after the gathering.

Our monthly general meeting was held on Nov. 13 following the temple's Eitaikyo Service. The group talked about past and upcoming activities. Later in the afternoon, we got together with the Vista Jr. YBA to begin planning for the 2017 Southern District Jr. YBL Conference. The conference will take place Sept. 2-3 at our temple. Davis Ong will serve as co-chairman along with Alex Kasai from Vista. The committee is currently putting together a "Save the Date" handout that will be distributed at the Southern District's Jam Session on Dec. 3. Our next meeting will be Dec. 18 at Vista starting at 4 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the annual **Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive**. Enough food was collected to give to four families in need so that they can enjoy the Thanksgiving holidays. In addition to non-perishable food items and monetary donations collected, we shopped for turkeys, fresh vegetables, pies and other goodies. Members separated the food on Sunday, Nov. 20. The packages were given to UPAC (United Pan Asian Communities) who presented the food to Asian families in need. This social service project expresses our Dana (giving) and is a very worthwhile. Thank you to Trina Muraoka for overseeing the project. And, to Trina, Hailey Sasaki and Breven Honda for doing the grocery shopping.

Please support our annual **Chow Mein Luncheon fundraiser** that will take place on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. after the Bodhi Day Service. Donation is \$7 for a plate of delicious pork chow mein and noodles! Tickets may be purchased from any Jr. YBA member. Preparations for the luncheon will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3 starting at 4 p.m. Thank you to Breven Honda and Trevor Muraoka for co-chairing the luncheon.

The annual **installation dinner** for the new cabinet will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10. Thank you to Hailey Sasaki and her family for hosting the dinner at their home.

Members are looking forward to participating in the temple's Mochitsuki on Dec. 11. The Jr. YBA will donate towards the purchase of mochitsuki supplies.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, the Jr. YBA will have a **Recycling Day** as we spread awareness of EcoSangha. Please save your CRV (California Redemption Value) plastic water bottles, aluminum cans and glass bottle and bring it to temple on your next visit. You may place your donations in the blue bins marked Jr. YBA Recycling located in Room 4. Proceeds will benefit Jr. YBA activities. The group is planning several more Recycling Days for 2017 so stay tuned!

The group extends a most appreciative **THANK YOU** to everyone for your generous donations and support throughout the year. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season. Arigato Gozaimashita!

Gassho, Breven Honda, Co-president

### TEMPLE TO HOST GARDEN VILLAS SENIOR LUNCH

BTSD will host the Garden Villa Senior Lunch Day on Friday, Dec. 2 from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person for a nice hot meal.

Thank you to Ken Muraoka and the temple volunteers for preparing the lunch.

Garden Villas is located at 1260 Third Avenue in Chula Vista.



It's holiday gift giving time. Consider a donation in your loved one's name to a charitable group like Heifer International, a charity organization working to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling communities or local groups that help the impoverished or homeless children. It has less impact on the environment but has a huge impact on those struggling in this world.



Now is a good time to start making a list for the holiday season. Gift cards are a great gift for everyone on your holiday list. For the men in your life, you can get Home Depot, Lowes, Golfsmith, Big 5, or Bass Pro Shop gift cards. For women, we have Macy's, Nordstrom's, Bath & Body Works, Old Navy, JC Penny's, Sears, and many more shops. For children, Toys R Us gift cards are available. Target, WalMart, Barnes & Noble, Staples, Office Depot, iTunes, Amazon.Com are great gifts for anyone on your holiday list.

Restaurants are also great gifts. Great Lakes carries not only fast food such as Arby's, Carl's, Burger King, El Pollo Loco, Jack in the Box, Subway, Smash Burger, Wendy's and Taco Bell, but also Chilli's, Applebee's, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Claim Jumper, Mimi's Café, Black Angus, Cheesecake Factory, and Outback Steakhouse. Gift cards are also available for fine dining at Ruth Chris, Flemings, and Morton Steakhouses.

Place your orders as soon as possible. Mail can get delayed the closer it gets to the end of December.



## Buddhist Education Committee

**Buddhism 1-2-3.** Our Wednesday night informal sessions continue through the first half of the month, on **Dec. 7** and **Dec. 14**. We start at 7 p.m. and usually run 90 minutes, with time for meditation, chanting, and Dharma discussion. We meet in the one-story Sangha Hall.

Kenji Sensei is personally leading both these sessions, so please join us for a break from the hectic holidays.

Following our holiday break, Buddhism 1-2-3 resumes on Wednesday, January, 4, 2017.

**No Fourth Sunday; Join Us in January.** In December we will not be holding a 9 a.m. session on the fourth Sunday. Our next opportunity for this one-hour introductory class, covering the history of Buddhism and our Temple, will be on Sunday, January 22, at 9 a.m. We will meet in the Sangha Hall.

**Save the Date: BEC Lecture Saturday Evening, January 14.** Rev. Dean Koyama, of Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, is our guest speaker for the Ho Onko service in January 15, and will be presenting a special lecture on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Sangha Hall. Stay tuned for more information about his talk.

### 2016 Membership: The Last Ten Percent

As of early November, we only have ten percent of our membership who have yet to renew for 2016. We'll do a special round of letters and phone calls to make sure we close the gap before the end of the year!

A special apology to those of you who had renewed 2016 early; several of you were incorrectly reported as not renewing in our last listing. This won't happen again, I promise!

Bill Teague, Membership Chair

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**YEAR-END/NEW YEAR  
 ACTIVITIES**

Please join us for the final service of 2016, the annual Joya-E (year-end) gathering on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 7 p.m. The service includes sutra chanting, meditation, a Dharma message from Kenji Sensei and ringing of the kansho (bell).

Later that evening, the temple will host the annual Joya No Kane (bell-ringing ceremony), at the San Diego Yokohama Sister City Friendship Bell on Shelter Island. The event begins at 11:30 p.m. with a short service, followed by the ringing of the large bell (bonsho), in which everyone will have the opportunity to ring. Plan a little extra time, as parking near the bell is limited, and dress warmly.

Welcome the New Year with Shusho-E, the first service of 2017, on Sunday, Jan. 1 at 10 a.m.

Kenji Sensei and the Temple look forward to your participation with the Year-End and New Year activities. Please call the temple for more information.

## MOCHITSUKI DAY IS SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

Each December temple members and friends of all ages, from the youngest Dharma School student to the young at heart, gather for a day of participating in the Japanese cultural tradition or making mochi (small circular rice cakes) for the New Year.

The annual Mochitsuki will take place on Sunday, December 11 from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

The temple is planning to wash and steam 900 pounds of mochigome (sweet rice), which will produce approximately 1,300 pounds of mochi.

For you mochi-making veterans and those new to the temple, mochitsuki requires a lot of people power. The day will be busy with jobs for everyone. First-timers, don't be shy to jump in and lend a hand. The veterans will assist you.

Here is a schedule of activities for mochitsuki weekend. Volunteering your help for any or all of the days listed will be greatly appreciated:

**Friday, Dec. 9** – Mochigome rice washing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Sat., Dec 10** – Equipment check and setup from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 11** – Mochitsuki Day (6 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

The following information will give you a brief perspective of the mochitsuki production:

Steaming mochigome (sweet rice)

Grinding and pounding the steamed rice into mochi. A little bit of muscle is required (For you early risers, we can use some manpower between 6 and 8 a.m., and throughout the day)

Cutting and shaping mochi (Lots of work done by the adult ladies and men)

Cooling station (fanning and turning the mochi until cool – a simple task for kids and newcomers)

Packaging station (weighing and packaging into one pound bags)

Runners (Deliver the packaged mochi to the pickup/sales area. The kids are fast with deliveries).

Clean up

Most importantly, many smiles, rekindling friendships, appreciating a cultural tradition and having a lot of fun!

Do you see a one or several work stations, where you can volunteer your time for a few hours?

**Mochi Order Presales:** The deadline for pre-orders is Sunday, Dec. 4. Donation is \$4.50 for a one pound bag (approximately seven pieces). The two-piece kasane for your home O Butsudan is \$7.00. Please fill out the order form that can be found in this month's Bussei Script or the BTSD website. Orders received after the deadline will be placed in standby.

**Mochi pick up:** Orders must be picked up between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**Donations:** Are being accepted for the purchase of supplies. The suggested donation is \$75.

**Other sales:** During mochitsuki holiday gifts may be purchased. Browse and buy at the O Bon Again Shop, Kaytee's White Elephant and Kris' Tupperware. The BWA will be selling their Almond Brittle and popcorn.

**Potluck lunch:** Bring your favorite food to share for the potluck luncheon that will be served to all of the volunteers.

**Contact the temple:** To place your order, volunteer your time or for more information at (619) 239-0896 or [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net)

BTSD's mochitsuki is enjoyable and rewarding experience. The temple looks forward to seeing you during mochitsuki weekend!

In Gassho,

Ralph Honda and Glenn Negoro, Co-chairs



**The Buddhist Temple of San Diego  
would like to say...  
Thank you to the Past ABA group!**

Johnny and Tsune Hashiguchi  
Umeko Kawamoto  
Yuki and Mits Kawamoto  
Miki Honda  
Motoo and Angie Tsuneyoshi  
Tom and Sumi Yanagihara

for funding the air conditioning and heating system in the Hondo.  
It was their last gift to the temple.  
It is now so comfortable for the Sangha to share the Dharma for years to come.  
Also, Thank you to Michael Kinoshita and Ken Muraoka for overseeing  
the project and making sure it was completed.

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**MOCHITSUKI ORDER FORM  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

 **KO-MOCHI PACKAGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$4.50 = COST \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Ko-Mochi is sold by the package, not by weight. Each package is *approximately* 1 pound)

 **KASANEMOCHI PACKAGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.00 = COST \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL COST = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Send order form with check to: **Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Attn: Mochi  
2929 Market Street, San Diego, CA 92102.**

OR Send an e-mail order to: [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net)

**Deadline to order is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016.**

Orders received AFTER the deadline will be placed on STAND-BY. All orders must be picked up at the Temple

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Orders not picked up by 3 p.m. will be subject to resale.

Questions? Please call the temple (619) 239-0896 or send e-mail to: [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net)



# Buddhist Temple of San Diego

## Celebrating 90 Years 2016



### Cherry Blossom Festival



Pride Parade



2016 Golf Tournament

Obon Odori, Balboa Park



90th Anniversary O Chigo Parade

## TEMPLE CLEAN UP DAY IS DECEMBER 18

Bring out your buckets and brooms, cleaning cloths and cleaners.

The temple's year-end cleanup day will take place on Sunday, Dec. 18 starting at 11:30 a.m., following the Dharma School/Family service. If you have up to three hours to volunteer your time, it will be greatly appreciated.

The primary areas to be cleaned will be in the hondo, including onaijin "Omigaki" led by the BWA, cleaning the pews, and minister's and floral side rooms.

Tidying up the kitchen, walk-in pantry and cleaning out the refrigerators will also take place.

For those who really want to get down to the nitty gritty, the basement will be cleaned to make room for storage.

Dharma School teachers and students are encouraged to clean their classroom.

In advance, thank you for helping get the temple "looking good" for the New Year!

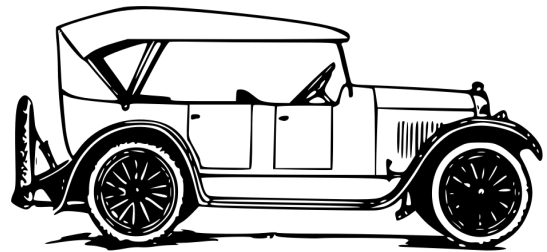
## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From the members of Asian Pacific Post 4851

Veterans of Foreign Wars

## BTSD VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

THINKING ABOUT GETTING RID  
OF YOUR OLD CAR?  
LOOKING FOR A TAX DEDUCTION?



CONSIDER DONATING YOUR  
VEHICLE TODAY!

CONTACT THE TEMPLE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION  
(619) 239-0896  
Email: [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net)

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



New Year's Eve Bell Ringing

- ◆ DEC. 2: **GARDN VILLAS SENIOR LUNCH**, noon to 1 p.m.
- ◆ DEC. 4: **BODHI DAY SERVICE and SHOTSUKI HOYO** (monthly memorial), 10 a.m.
- ◆ DEC. 4: **JR. YBA CHOW MEIN LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Donation: \$7
- ◆ DEC. 7: **BUDDHISM 1-2-3**, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- ◆ DEC. 9: **MOCHIGOME RICE WASHING**, 11 a.m.
- ◆ DEC. 10: **MOCHITSUKI setup**, 11 a.m.
- ◆ DEC. 11: **MOCHITSUKI DAY**, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◆ DEC. 14: **BUDDHISM 1-2-3**, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- ◆ DEC. 18: **DHARMA SCHOOL/FAMILY SERVICE**, 10 a.m.
- ◆ DEC. 18: **TEMPLE CLEAN UP and OMIGAKI**, 11 a.m.
- ◆ DEC. 31: **JOYA-E** (year-end service), 7 p.m.
- ◆ DEC. 31: **JOYA NO KANE** (bell ringing ceremony) at Shelter Island Friendship Bell, 11:30 p.m.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

- ◆ JAN. 1: **SHUSHO E** (New Year's Day Service), 10 a.m.,
  - ◆ JAN. 8: **DHARMA SCHOOL/FAMILY SERVICE RESUMES**
  - ◆ JAN. 15: **HO ONKO SERVICE**, 10 a.m.
- (Details for listed events can be found in this month's issue. More December calendar dates appear on Page 2).*

