

# BUSSEI SCRIPT

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MAY 2016

## MY HOLIEST PLACE

By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Resident Minister



We celebrate Shinran's birth with our Gotan-e Service in May. The great contribution that Shinran has provided us is an understanding and process of appreciating Shakymuni's Teachings as common, ordinary people, and not as practicing, dedicated monks. The Nembutsu as a practice is often not clearly understood. We point our fingers toward its Truth in many ways. The following article, "My Holiest Place," was recently published in a Special Edition of the USA TO-

DAY and National Geographic Channel newspaper magazine. It was my contribution as a Buddhist, in conjunction with the National Geographic TV series "The Story Of God," with Morgan Freeman. I also contributed the Buddhist perspective on the episode on "Evil" to be aired on Sunday, May 1. You will have to go online to < [natgeotv/StoryOfGod](http://natgeotv.com/StoryOfGod) > to access my perspective on the notion of "evil," from a Buddhist perspective. The series is an invitation for the followers of different faith traditions to inquire about the similarities and difference of our religions. I hope that this article is helpful in clarifying Shin Buddhism and the importance of Shinran's emphasis on the Nembutsu as our practice.

### "My Holiest Place"

When I'm enjoying the company of family or fellow *sangha* (congregation) members, my thoughts are not about being holy. I am being very human in the enjoyment of the food at the potluck, the discussion in our Dharma session, or even in the business of committee meetings. The essence of a Shin Buddhist life, is to appreciate the "now." Of course the ambiance of the religious service in our *hondo* (sanctuary) or the intimacy of nature during a hike, can also evoke a feeling of holiness.

To a Shin Buddhist, spirituality is experienced in the flow of everyday life. It is an attitude absorbed by the perspective that, being human is a spiritual experience. We are reminded of this unique life experience by a voicing of Namu Amida Butsu. Although the deep, spiritual meaning of this refrain is beyond words, an abbreviated explanation would be that it is an awareness and appreciation for the gift of human life. When this reality permeates the barriers of self-centered illusion, a balanced life of harmony and acceptance emerges.

A Pure Land is central to the mythology of our sect. This holy place is interpreted in modern thought as a Pure Realm. It is a consciousness, rather than a geographical place.

Therefore, a holy place is a frame of mind. We know this realm when we experience gratitude. Buddha means to be an awakened being. Being a Buddhist is a constant cycle of waking up to the unique experience of human life. There is no practice that we can do to achieve the condition of human life. Everything has been received. There is nowhere else to go, no practice to fulfill, no concern for the future. Our inconceivable birth has occurred on this improbable planet in this impossible universe, at this precise time in galactic history. Evolution has developed the human mind and heart to awaken to this spiritual realm. In this realm, all life is spiritual. The voicing of Namu Amida Butsu, is both a stimulus and response of our awaking to the reality of being included as an integral part of this vast universe. This expression of gratitude brings me to my holiest place.

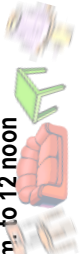
This realm of gratitude transcends the duality of good or bad, right or wrong. The burden of guilt or righteousness is lifted. With this perspective, I can accept the harsh realities of the human condition. Even when my intellect and emotions complain about an apparent disaster, my spiritual center cushions the pain. My inconceivable human birth has entered the game of life. The gratitude of Namu Amida Butsu, alerts me that the joys of love and compassion are also available. My practice is to appreciate what I have been given, to balance the desire for things that I don't have. All my worldly activities and concerns are gifts of an unseen spiritual source. Every aspect of my ordinary life is a reflection of the spiritual. A deep sense of gratitude emerges as I awaken to my inclusion in the Oneness of all light and life. Therefore, my holiest place is in the "now" of ordinary life.

*Gassho*

### Kieshiki Ceremony - Receiving a Buddhist Name

The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in October provides a unique opportunity for members to declare their affirmation to the Teachings of Shin Buddhism and receive their Buddhist Name. Applications can be obtained from the temple office, along with an explanation of its meaning. You can select a character that reflects your own identity. A Buddhist Name can be an inspiration to live according to its meaning. This is not restricted to membership at the temple, although it may be an impetus to join. We hope many will take advantage of this unique opportunity, which is not offered very often.

# MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> 9 a.m. – Dharma School Staff Mtg. @Conf. Rm.  <b>10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE</b>  <b>May Shotzaki Memorial</b>                      Noon – Taiko Practice @Annex Hall</p>	<p><b>2</b> Temple Closed</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 10 a.m.—Craft Day                      12 p.m. – Minyo Group @Sangha Hall                      6:30 p.m. – Taiko Practice @Annex Hall                      7 p.m. – Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> 10 a.m.—Tai Chi @Annex Hall</p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>Spring Furniture Sale, 8 a.m. to 12 noon</b>  </p>
<p><b>8</b> <b>Mother's Day</b>                      8:30 a.m. – Jr. YBA Mother's Day Breakfast, AH  <b>10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE</b>                      Noon – TAIKO Practice @Annex Hall</p>	<p><b>9</b> Temple Closed                      7 p.m. – W&amp;M Mtg. @Conf. Room</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10 a.m. – SD Ministers Mtg. @LA Betsuin 7 p.m.—90th Anniv. Mtg.</p>	<p><b>11</b> 10 a.m.—Craft Day                      12 p.m. – Minyo Group@S.H.                      1 p.m. – Shigin @Annex 1.2                      6:30 p.m. – Taiko Practice @A.H.                      7 p.m. – Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H.</p>	<p><b>12</b> 6:45 p.m. – Board of Directors Mtg. @Conf. Room</p>	<p><b>13</b> 10 a.m.—Tai Chi @ AH                      7:30 p.m., SD Council Mtg. @ Gardena</p>	<p><b>14</b> 10 a.m. Koto, SH                      7 p.m.—Rev. Miyajji lecture SH</p>
<p><b>15</b> 10 a.m. – <b>GOTANE</b>  <b>Guest Speaker: Rev. Nobuo Miyajji, Gardena Buddhist Church</b>  <b>BWA Chirashi Sale</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> Temple Closed</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> 10 a.m.—Craft Day                      12 p.m. – Minyo Group @S.H.                      1 p.m. – Shigin @Annex 1.2                      6:30 p.m. – Taiko Practice @A.H.                      7 p.m. – Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 10 a.m. – Koto Class @Sangha Hall</p>
<p><b>22</b> 9 a.m.—<b>New Member Meet/Greet With BOD</b>                      9 a.m. – <b>INTRO. TO BUDDHISM @Sangha Hall</b>                      10 a.m. – <b>FAMILY SERVICE</b>                      Noon – Taiko Practice @Sangha Hall</p>	<p><b>23</b> Temple Closed                      10 a.m.—Tai Chi @ Annex Hall</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> 10 a.m.—Craft Day                      12 p.m. – Minyo Group @S.H.                      1 p.m. – Shigin @Annex 1.2                      6:30 p.m. – Taiko Practice @A.H.                      7 p.m. – Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H.                      7 p.m.—Activities Meeting</p>	<p><b>26</b> 7 p.m. – SD Conf. Planning Mtg, 7 p.m. @ Crowne Plaza Hotel</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> Imperial Valley Cemetery (Services @ Calexico, El Centro, Brawley)                      10 a.m.-Koto, SH                      6-9 p.m. – BTSDVFW BINGO @Annex Hall</p>
<p><b>29</b> 10 a.m. – <b>DS/FAMILY SERVICE</b>                      Noon—Taiko Practice @ Sangha Hall                      2 p.m.—Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>                      Temple Closed                      8:30 a.m.—Cypress View                      9:30 a.m.—Community Memorial @ Mt. Hope                      10 a.m.—Tai Chi @ A H</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>				

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By LuAnn Lee Board President

Spring is definitely upon us. Everything is blooming all over town and I noticed, as many of you have, the flowers in the planter box near the temple are so beautiful and vibrant in color. Rain came in the night and left the morning feeling clean and fresh. It really was a perfect day for our Hanamatsuri service. You can almost imagine what Lumbini's garden was like long ago. Thank you to all who volunteered to make the nice Hanamido and floral arrangements.

Appreciation goes to those that donated flowers, gave such generous monetary donations and all who brought food to share for the luncheon. The potluck was a great turn out with all the delicious foods and temple friends, long time members and new faces. A round of applause to Laura Henschen and all the helpers for organizing the foods and the Junior YBA for serving tea for the guests. We give appreciation to the board members who donated monies towards the main dishes.

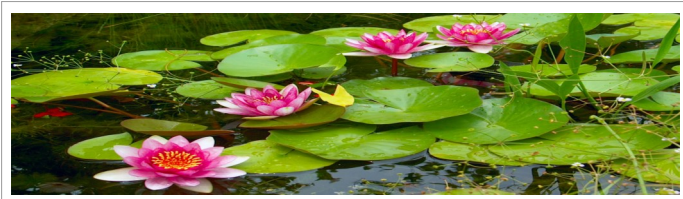
In the two months as President, I have had the opportunity to hear many Dharma talks. It started at the National Council Meeting listening to the Speakers at the services and Dharmathon. Guest ministers for O Higan was Rev. Gibbs, and for Hanamatsuri, Rev. Furumoto, and of course our very own resident minister, Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi. It's interesting to me how the messages are delivered in many different ways. Some talks are funny, some with stuffed animals, some more serious. I guess because they tell stories that are meaningful to them and topics come from their own life experiences. I really encourage all of you to attend the local BEC lectures that are usually the night before the special service. Our next opportunity to listen to a guest speaker will be when Rev. Nobuo Miyaji of Gardena visits for a BEC lecture on May 14 and Gotan -E, the next day.

At the Hanamatsuri service, I spoke about a new idea to get donations for items the temple needs that are not in our budget. It is the Bodhi Tree (Giving Tree). We had a wonderful response and just can't tell you how deeply touched we are to see all the leaves gone from the tree. New leaves are ready to be picked and will continue to grow for continued needs of the temple. Thanks to all of you who gave monetary gifts (please see the list of generous donors in the donation section)

Last but not least, I hope you were able to come to the BTSD Eco Sangha's 1<sup>st</sup> Earth Day. It was put on by the Eco Sangha Committee and friends. Look for a recap of the event in this Kaiho but in the meantime, thank you to all that worked on this successful informative event. It was led by Chairperson Glenn Torio and Committee members. Special thanks to Karen Akahoshi for starting this committee with her vision of a better Eco Sangha. There were many different displays, a raffle and speakers from the City of San Diego. We learned a lot from this event and are definitely more aware of Reusing, Recycling and Rethinking.

Hope to see you around the temple!

In Gassho



## BWA NEWS

Hanamatsuri was observed on April 10 with the Hanamido beautifully decorated! Many thanks to Dharma School students, families and Sangha members who did a wonderful job! Thank you Rev. Ryuta Furumoto of Senshin Buddhist Temple for a very memorable observance! The potluck lunch which followed was enjoyed by all, Thank You Everyone AND for supporting the BWA Bake Sale that day! The Temple also celebrated Earth Day on April 17 with a variety of interesting talks and activities to stress the importance of leading an Eco-friendly life!

Coming up on Sunday, May 15, for our Gotan-E Service, we will be welcoming Rev. Nobuo Miyaji of Gardena Buddhist Church as our special guest speaker. He will also be giving an informal talk on Saturday, the 14th at 7:00 pm. If you have some free time, please join us in Sangha Hall.

**A REMINDER:** Don't forget to sign up NOW for the one-day, Southern District and BWA Conference being hosted by BTSD on SATURDAY, JUNE 18 from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. Registration Fee: \$65 per person; (\$40 for BWA Members); includes lunch and conference activities with wonderful English and Japanese speakers.

As hosts of this conference, we will be given the opportunity to sell our Craft Items during the conference breaks. If you haven't yet come to any craft sessions, this is a great time to start. You can learn and make items for yourself, and make a few extra to sell if you'd like. (We are also still looking for persons who are adept at crocheting and those who would like to learn!). Please join us WEDNESDAYS, from 10 am – 2 pm in the dining room for our CRAFT SESSIONS!

**\* HELP NEEDED!:** for "CHIRASHI" preparation (for "Otoki" on MAY 15! Please mark your calendar- We will need a lot of help on:

\* SATURDAY, 14th @ 9:30 am

\* SUNDAY, 15th: Rice Cookers @ 6:00 am

Everyone else @ 7:00 am, (Led by BWA Groups A & C)

**TAI CHI CHUAN** ~Whether you have practiced TAI CHI or not, I think you will enjoy the sessions led by our instructor, MARK MADEIRA. Check the calendar on page two of this edition for class dates and times or call the temple at (619) 239-0896.

### OTHER CALENDAR ITEMS:

~May 8, 8:30am for the Annual Mother's Day Breakfast at the Annex prepared by Jr. Y.B.A. (moms free; others are \$5/person). You do not want to miss this, it's a REAL treat!

~May 21, 10:00 am, for Saturday with Kevin! If you have been wanting to learn how to roll those delicious "sushi" (also known as "maki-zushi"), come out and try your hand at making your own! Please sign up with your group leader to attend. Materials fee is \$5. It's fun and you will get to enjoy the results!

~BWA will be selling delicious brittle & caramel corn in May, just in time for Mothers' & Father' Days. It also makes a great end of the year gift as well as a treat for yourself!

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** Thank You Group A, for providing the delicious refreshments at our April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting! And Many Thanks to Everyone who baked/made all the delicious goodies for our Bake Sale!

There are 2 ways to get to the BWA website: southerndistrictbwa.weebly.com, or through the direct link from the website for the temple at btsd.net. Please take a peek to see what we've been doing. Our next BWA meeting will be held on MAY 1, at 11:45 am, when Group B will be hosting. Hope to see you then!

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met on April 14th -

1. Condolences to the families of Mrs. Hideko Smith and Mrs. Yoko Garcia
2. Laverne Imori will serve as a Minister's Assistant. Laverne is certified and formerly held the position at Ekoji Temple in Virginia.
3. The Board approved an expenditure for speakers and cables to be used for temple and offsite events.
4. The Board approved allocating up to \$10,000 of the Eitaikyo funds for Onajin upgrades and improvements. Rev. Akahoshi will advise on recommended expenditures.
5. The Board was updated on the status of the Hondo ceiling fan/air conditioning project, 2016 Southern District Family Conference, 90th Anniversary Observance and the 2016 Obon Odori that will be held in Balboa Park.
7. Board members are volunteering to serve as greeters and provide office coverage during Sunday family services.
8. The Board was informed of and discussed recent vandalism and other security concerns for the temple grounds.
9. The Board approved registration fees for Rev. Akahoshi to attend the BCA Ministers Fuken, June 6-7.

Gassho,  
Nancy Martinez

### 2016 Southern District Buddhist & SD BWA Conference

**Saturday, June 18, 2016 •**  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Diego, CA

**“American Shin Buddhism; New Voices”**  
See page 9

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Hanamatsuri 2016 was another beautiful event, commemorating the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha.

Thank you very much to all of the Dharma School students, teachers, parents and Sangha members who donated flowers and monetary donations, and for decorating the hanamido on April 9. We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Asako Morinaka for donating beautiful cymbidium orchids. Thank you to students Sage Seymour, Tabo Isakari, Nick and Abby Okita, Cassidy Muraoka, Julianna Henschen, Trina Muraoka, and Breven Honda for doing a terrific job of decorating! The temple observed Hanamatsuri on April 10.

On Sunday, April 17, students participated in the temple's first Earth Day. The classes displayed their earth day crafts and enjoyed the games and activities. Thank you to the EcoSangha committee for having the event.

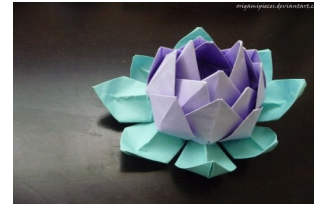
On May 15 we will be in charge of conducting the Hatsumairi Service. Hatsumairi is a ceremony where young children are officially presented or introduced in front of the Amida Buddha. Registration forms are available in the temple office. The registration deadline is May 8. All participants are asked to arrive in the hondo at 8:30 a.m. to receive instructions prior to the ceremony.

During the month of May, the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will provide the fruit and floral offering before each service. Thank you Dharma School students.

**SAVE THE DATE:** To attend the annual temple picnic, hosted by Dharma School, on Sunday, June 19 at Rohr Park in Chula Vista. Kenji Sensei will conduct the last service of the Dharma School term. The service begins at 10 a.m. Attendance and participation awards will be presented to students, and all fathers will be recognized on their special day. Following the service, we will have a Bar BQ lunch. Families and Sangha members are being asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert. After lunch the Jr. YBA will host some games.

The next teacher /staff meeting will be on Sunday, June 12 at 9 a.m.

Gassho,  
Avis Honda, Superintendent



## JR. YBA NEWS

The annual Mother's Day Breakfast take place on Sunday, May 8 from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the Annex Hall. We will honor all mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers on their special day with a delicious meal that will consist of scrambled eggs, sausage, miso soup, rice and fruit. Members are passing out complimentary tickets to all moms and selling tickets for \$5. We look forward to many people coming out to enjoy the breakfast. Hailey Sasaki and Trina Muraoka are co-chairing the breakfast.

Next month, members will conduct games for the temple Japanese Cultural Bazaar on June 5. Two weeks later, on June 19, the group will have a few games for kids and adults at the temple picnic. Some members will help the temple when it hosts the Southern District Conference on June 18. Members are looking forward to attend Southern District Seminar III that the Senshin Jr. YBA will host on June 24.

In April, Breven Honda represented the group at the Southern District Basketball tournament. He had a great time!

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, May 15 at 11:30 a.m.

### REUNION UPDATE

Planning continues for the 65<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the San Diego Jr. YBA. A save-the-date email announcement was sent to many alumni and temple families of former members at the end of March.

The reunion will take place on Saturday, October 15 and will be held in conjunction with the temple's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance the following day. A reunion dinner and activity will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley.

Committee chairs are current members Breven Honda, Trevor Muraoka and Hailey Sasaki. The group's first planning meeting was held on March 20. A second meeting took place on April 24 where specific details would be confirmed. The committee is looking to send a formal announcement to alumni and temple families this month. Stay tuned!

If you have historical photos from Jr. YBA days that you would like to share, please bring it to the temple on your next visit. We are planning a photo exhibit.

We hope that many alumni, advisors, temple members, friends and former ministers will reserve the date of October 15 and enjoy a day of reminiscing the "good ol' days" with the San Diego Jr. YBA.

In Gassho,  
Kenji Niwa, President

## Shin Buddhist Retreat

### Human Nature – Buddha Nature

Resolving Life Issue with Buddhist Principles

August 12-14, 2016

This annual retreat, led by Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, will be held at the Land of Medicine Buddha, near Soquel, Ca. Information and a registration form can be accessed by contacting the office ([info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net)) or (619) 239-0896.

### Scholarship Applications Now Available

The BTSD Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce scholarship applications are available now through the Temple office.

**Two Scholarship Categories.** Scholarships are provided each year in two categories, one for graduating High School Seniors headed to college and one for current college students who will continue into the next year. Each scholarship is named after a late Temple member instrumental in tirelessly supporting the Temple for most of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; both were pillars of the Temple Sangha. The applications are as follows:

**Ben Honda Memorial High School Graduate Scholarship.** For senior high school students graduating and continuing on to higher education.

**Tetsuyo Kashima Memorial Continuing Education Scholarship.** For college and junior college students continuing with their college education.

**Eligibility -** Applications are welcome from all students whose parents or legal guardians are members in good standing of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego.

**Outreach.** The Scholarship Committee will reach out to eligible students by email where possible and based on availability of email addresses, but if students do not immediately receive an email we encourage them to request an application from the Temple.

**Due Date.** All applications are due Friday, July 1,. The applications can be delivered to the Temple by email, mail, or hand.

**Scholarship Committee.** The 2016 committee members include Bill and Joyce Teague; Ralph and Avis Honda; Patti Nakamura; and representatives from the Temple's affiliated organizations.

## Don't Take Membership for Granted!

Bill Teague  
Membership Chair

**Gratitude.** We are all grateful to the members who have joined or renewed their membership for 2016, but as of April 15, we are not yet even halfway to complete renewals.

**The Bylaws Say.** Our Temple's corporate bylaws state that membership dues are due at the beginning of each year. Having the operating capital that comes from dues payments allows us to make the most of your financial support. A strong membership keeps our Temple strong at the core.

**Reminders at End of May.** We will be sending out written reminders to members who have not yet renewed their membership at the end of this month. I'm asking each of you who have not done so to renew in May. In June we will list all renewed members – and with Kaiho deadlines, usually the counts only include the first half of the month. Don't take membership for granted. Please make the list and renew your membership today.



On April 17<sup>th</sup> the EcoSangha Committee had its inaugural BTSD Earth Day Event! Thank you to all those who were able to attend! Our committee is made up of very dedicated and creative Eco-minded people who I will thank as well. The day began with the family service led by Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi who by the way is hosting the water conservation station. Sensei's message told of how we as Buddhist are one with all living things, which includes

Mother Earth, and have always been Ecologist. During the adult message, Dharma school student continued lessons on ecology and completed their Earth Day projects, which were on display. To follow, a chili and rice lunch was offered by our group. Please note, ceramic bowls and silverware were used to help reduce waste going into the landfills. There were many stations to visit to include a worm farm, repurposed items, water wise plants, global warming, water conservation and raffle. Another highlight was a presentation from the County of San Diego Outdoor Education Program, sponsored by the City of San Diego. The group of 3 college students gave a great presentation. Until next year (tentative date April 30, 2017) Think Green, we will all benefit from the effort!

## SCRIP NEWS

Mother's Day will soon be here and it's not too late to order gift cards for department stores and/or restaurants. Treat your mother to something special and surprise her with a gift card.

Looking in the future, Father's Day and graduation will soon be here. We have Home Depot gift cards, as fathers always seem to need new tools. For graduates, there are gift cards for Barnes and Noble, Staples, Target, Walmart, Macy's, Nordstrom's, and others.

I will be gone the last two weekends in May, but if you need to buy scrip-please see Nancy Martinez who will gladly assist you.

Remember to scan your Ralph's and/or Food 4 Less cards if you have turned in letter to them. Thanks to everyone who is shopping at Ralph's and Food 4 Less. Thanks also to everyone who is purchasing gift cards. Together we are earning money to help the temple.

BUY SCRIPT AND DON'T FORGET TO USE IT!

## Buddhist Education in May

With the Buddha's dying words, he asked us to study the Dharma, and in addition to its weekly services, the Temple is happy to provide additional opportunities to listen and consider the teachings.

**Special Guest Lecture: Saturday, May 14.** As an extension of our Gotan-E observances in May, guest speaker Rev. Nobuo Miyaji, of the Gardena Buddhist Church, will offer an intimate lecture on "This World and the Other World in Buddhism." Buddhist teachings frequently contrast this world of samsara—in which we may find ourselves suffer -with the reality experienced by an enlightened Buddha.

The lecture is offered at 7 p.m. in the Sangha Hall and will include a screened visual presentation. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. No RSVPs are requested.

Rev. Miyaji is the younger brother of retired former BTSD minister, Rev. Akio Miyaji, and has an equally impressive resume of service to multiple Sanghas within the Buddhist Churches of America.

**Shoshinge Class: Thursday, May 19.** On the Third Thursday of each month, Kenji Sensei is helping us understand English translations of the *Shoshinge*, Shinran's master *gatha* on the foundational teachings of Jodo Shinshu. In May we meet on Thursday, May 19 at 7 pm in the Sangha Hall. The classes are open to all and you will benefit from attending later sessions even if you did not attend earlier. These monthly classes will be winding down soon, so please join in before it's too late for this year!

**Buddhism 1-2-3: Wednesday May 4, 11, 18, & 25.** The Temple offers informal gatherings on most Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 pm. Each session includes chanting, meditation, and Dharma. In May Kenji Sensei will explore and help us to discover the modern spiritual truths in the doctrine and practices we inherit in our Nembutsu tradition. In particular, he will share insights useful for all and especially for those who have accepted or are interested in accepting a Buddhist name. Sensei typically leads the first two sessions of the month, and other members of the Buddhist Education Committee lead other sessions. Thank you Sensei!

**Fourth Sunday Program: Sunday, May 22.** This month Kaytee Sumida will present a one-hour general Introduction to Buddhism, the Jodo Shinshu school, and our local temple to all interested parties, Sangha and visitors alike. The class starts at 9 am in the Sangha Hall. Following the presentation, attendees are invited to join the 10 am family service.



During Memorial weekend, we will take time from our busy schedules to reflect and honor men and women who served in our nation's armed forces.

At the same time, the temple, along with the Nikkei community, will remember the lives of family and friends who passed away from Memorial 2015 to 2016. Kenji Sensei and the temple hope that you will be able to participate in the following services of May 28-30:

**Saturday, May 28:** Imperial Valley Cemetery visitations – Calexico Cemetery (9:00 a.m.), El Centro Cemetery (10:30 a.m.) and Brawley Cemetery (11:30 a.m.).

**Sunday, May 29:** BTSD Family service at 10:00 a.m.; Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery service at 2:00 p.m.

**Monday, May 30:** Memorial Day observances – El Camino Mortuary (formerly Cypress View) in Japanese columbarium section (8:30 a.m.). Mt. Hope Cemetery Nikkei Community Service (9:30 a.m.).

## BEER AND SAKE FESTIVAL

The temple will participate in the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana's 14<sup>th</sup> annual Beer and Sake Festival on Friday, June 3 at Harrah's Resort and Casino. The event runs from 7:00 to 10 p.m.

Patrons to the event will be able to sample the temple's tasty Taiyaki (sweet red bean filled pastry) and receive handouts regarding the temple and its activities. This will be the sixth year the temple's has participated in this community outreach event.

If you wish to purchase tickets to the event visit the JSSDT web site: [www.japan-society.org](http://www.japan-society.org)



### Re-Think – Re-Use – Re-Sale!!!

Volunteers will be staffing the temple's Spring Furniture "Plus" Sale on Saturday, May 7, 8 a.m. to Noon. Proceeds go toward the temple's operating expenses.

Gently used furniture, housewares, bedding, luggage, sporting goods, and other items will be sold. Come browse, and consider buying something "tried and true" rather than new.

We need your help to make this sale a success – sorters, pricers, sales people, cashiers, security and other volunteer positions are needed. If you are available to help out in any way, please sign up to volunteer.

# Mother's Day Breakfast

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2016

8:30-10:00 a.m.

BTSD Annex Hall

Mothers = FREE

Others = \$ 5.00 donation

HOSTED BY THE JR. YBA

# "All Night Long"

B.T.S.D. Dinner Dance Casino Night, March 12, 2016

The third Dinner Dance Casino Night, "All Night Long", was a wonderful success for our Temple in terms of the positive responses of our guests and the revenue we were able raise for our Temple's 90th Anniversary Celebration.

This accomplishment could not have been reached without the generous support, commitment and hard work of our committee members and our Office Secretary. I would like to express special recognition and thank you to the following who made this event a fun, unique and beneficial fundraiser for the Buddhist Temple of San Diego:

Temple Secretary, Linda Redenbaugh

Committee members: Gregg Yonekura, Glenn Torio, LuAnn Lee, Tim and Junko Kajita, Fred and Nancy Nakatani, Karen Okuhara, Ann Ong, Ralph Honda, Jamie Shimizu and Nancy Martinez

In Gassho,

Mani Yamaguchi, Chairperson

# TALK...LISTEN...Keep Your Fingers Busy Making SOMETHING!



## CRAFTS

Every Wednesday  
In May!  
10 a.m. In the  
BTSD Dining Room

\*\*\*\*\*

## Improve your balance!

BWA Presents

### Tai Chi

Friday 10-11 a.m.

Last Friday class on 5/13

Beginning, May 23,

Tai Chi will move to

MONDAYS 10-11 a.m.



## BINGO UPDATE

The April Bingo had a great turn out as the Temple had their Taco dinner fundraiser.

On May 28th Bingo Night, the VFW will serve their Chili dogs. Just a reminder that the Temple gets 50% of all proceeds. Buy-in is \$10, and extra cards are \$0.50 each. Pull tabs are also available for \$0.50 each. A raffle for prizes is held just before the first Bingo break.

Hope to see more people come out and enjoy an evening of Bingo (start time: at 6 p.m.), and the Hot dogs & Chili dogs will be served from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Hatsumairi (Young Child's Presentation) is a ceremony when your child or grandchild is presented to Amida Buddha for the first time. In Japanese, it is called Shosan-shiki, "The First Visitation." This year, Hatsumairi will take place on **Sunday, May 15th at 9 a.m.** prior to the Gotan-e Service. If you would like to have your child an/or grandchild take part in this ceremony, please complete the form below and return it by **Sunday, May 8, 2016** to either Avis Honda (Dharma School Superintendent) or to the temple office. We ask that the participants arrive at 8:30 a.m.

## Hatsumairi Ceremony Participation Form MAY 15, 2016

PARTICIPANT'S FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARTICIPANT'S DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Due by: SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2016

## BTSD SERVES LUNCH AT GARDEN VILLAS SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

On Friday, April 22, the temple hosted the Friday Senior Lunch program at Garden Villas (formerly Kiku Gardens) in Chula Vista.

Temple volunteers and Garden Villas staff members cooked and served food to approximately 80 diners. There were many temple members who came out for a delicious lunch that consisted of Mochiko Fried Chicken, rice, salad, vegetables and Jello cake for dessert.

Thank you to the volunteers who help with the activity: Ralph and Avis Honda, Roy and Karen Okuhara, Nancy Martinez, Miki Honda, Mildred Kawasaki. Trace Kawaski, Alice Aoyama and Miyoko Yamanishi and Kenji Sensei.

The temple's next opportunity to host the luncheon will be on June 10. Please contact the temple if you wish to volunteer for the luncheon.

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT BUDDHIST CONFERENCE UPDATE

Sangha members and friends of all ages are encouraged to engage in the Dharma at the annual Southern District Buddhist and Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) conference.

American Shin Buddhism: New Voices is the theme and will bring together a very diverse mix ministers and laypeople, both traditional followers and individuals new to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, who will share their views on their Buddhist path.

The one-day conference, which comes to San Diego once every seven to eight years, will take place on Saturday, June 18 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. BTSD and the Vista Buddhist Temple will serve as co-hosts.

Registration fee is \$65 per person. The fee includes lunch, coffee breaks and other expenditures associated with the event. Deadline to register is May 20. After that date, the fee will increase to \$85. Please email or call the temple to place your reservation.

**Rev. Kodo Umezu**, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America will deliver his words of wisdom during the opening service.

### MORNING DHARMATHON TALKS

Following the opening service, the program will continue with "Dharmathon." Here is a brief introduction of English speakers:

**Rev. Kory Quon** – Resident minister of the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Rev. Quon is a product of the Shin Buddhist family, growing up through the Dharma School and YBA programs at the Los Angeles Betsuin.

**Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi** – Resident Minister of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Kenji Sensei brings a very unique approach of conveying Shinran's teaching in today's 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Rosalyn Dong** – Is an active member of the Vista Buddhist Temple and will share her path as a fairly new Shin Buddhist follower.

**Maribeth "Smitty" Smith** – Is a BTSD member who is active with temple activities including BEC outreach. Smitty conducts services for servicemen at the Marine Corp Recruit Depot and is a ministerial aspirant.

The Japanese Dharmathon will feature the following participants: **Rev. Kaz Nakata** (Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple), **Rev. Mutsumi Wondra** (Orange County Buddhist Church), **Rev. Yoshiko Miyaji** (Gardena Buddhist Church) and **Ms. Noriko Kawai** (BTSD).

### AFTERNOON PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Will feature laypeople active with their temples and Jr. YBA, YBA and young adult leaders who are active with their respective groups. All panelists will share their thoughts of what brought them to Buddhism and sustain their interest as Shin followers. Ministers will comprise the Japanese panel.

English Panel 1 includes: **Tina Donisi** (Vista Buddhist Temple), **Emily Kariya**, president (Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple) and **Judy Nakatomi** (Vista Buddhist Temple).

English Panel 2 includes: **Morgan Gee**, president (Southern District Jr. YBL), **Kurtis Omori**, youth minister (Vista Buddhist Temple) and **Bobby Koga** (BTSD).

Japanese speaking panelists include: **Rev. Ryuta Furumoto** (Senshin Buddhist Temple), **Rev. Nobuo Miyaji** (Gardena Buddhist Church), and **Bishop Umezu** (BCA)

\*\*\*\*\*

Many thanks to the volunteers from both temples who are serving on the committee, especially the San Diego and Vista BWA ladies..

The planning committee's next two meetings will be on Thursday, May 26 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (7 p.m.) and Sunday, June 12 at Vista Buddhist Temple (1:30 p.m.).

Both Kenji Sensei and I hope that many from the Sangha will be able to take time from their busy schedule and take part in what is expected to be a refreshing opportunity of engaging the Dharma through "New Voices." Sign up today!

In Gassho,  
Ralph Honda, Conference Chairman

# — あなたの親は誰ですか? —

おや だれ  
駐在開教使 向嶋謙史

先月、花まつり法要を兼ねて初参式をお勤めしました。五人のかわいの子供達がそれぞれの両親に連れられて阿弥陀仏の御前へ、仏の子としての新しい生命の歩みを多く門徒さんからお祝いしてもらいました。初参式は、お念仏のみ教えと共に力強い人生を歩んでいくれるようにと、愛する子供達の成長を願う大切な法要です。かわいらしい仏の子の横で、お念仏のみ教えを聞く子に育てていこうと誓いながら手を合わす親御さんの姿が一段と輝いて見え、何とも有難い気持ちでいっぱいになりました。また、この初参式を通して、改めて子を持親としての責任の重さに気づかせてもらいました。世の中には数えきれないほどのさまざまな種類の動物がいます。身近なものでも、犬や猫、鳥、うさぎ、と本当に様々です。しかし、興味深いことに、それらの動物は同じ種以外の親に育てられても、ちゃんと本来の動物として育つことができます。たとえば、猫が犬に育てられても猫に育ちますし、犬が狼に育てられても犬として育ちます。親の種類が違っていても、決して、その親のようになることはありません。ですから、犬が人に育てられても、犬にしかなりえませんし、もと言えは、人間のよくな生き方はできないのです。どれほど人間が愛情をかけて育てても、犬は犬、猫は猫として育ちます。それがたとえほかの動物であっても、

例外はありません。たとえ人間環境に慣れることはできても、動物は本来の姿を変えることはできません。しかし、人間は完全にほかの動物とは違います。人は必ず人によって育てられなくてはなりません。昔、インドに狼少女と騒がれた二人の少女がいたという有名な話があります。悲しいことに、この少女らは幼くして両親に森の中で捨てられたそうです。その後、何らかの理由で、狼に育てられ生き残ることができたのですが、数年後、森深くでこの少女達が発見され保護されました。

しかし、人として生を受けたにもかかわらず、幼少期に狼に育てられたことにより、言語を話したり、文字を書いたり、一本足で歩いたりすることができません。更には、食事の時は、地べたに四つん這いになって、まさに狼のように食ふべきだと叫びます。残念なことに、彼女達は狼としての生活から抜け出せずに、最後まで人間の生活に戻ることができなかつたそうです。せつなく人として生まれながらも、狼を親として生活した結果、人間らしく生きる道を絶たれてしまったのです。何とも悲しいお話です。

この話から分かるように、人間世界では、育てる親によつて子供のありようは大きく変わります。だからこそ、お念仏に香る家庭を築き、その教えの中で、人の苦しみ、悲しみ、そして喜びを共に分かち合つことのできる心豊かな子に育てることが親として最も大切なことだと気づかされます。また、浄土真宗では、親と子は同じ年だということをよく言われます。それは、どれだけ年をとっても子のない人を親とは言わないように、人は子を持つて初めて親となるのだということです。もっと言いますと、私の娘は二〇〇八年に生まれ、その時初めて私と妻は親になりました。娘は今七歳ですが、私達も彼女の親として七年目です。息子は二〇一二年に生まれ、今三歳です。私達が親になったのは七年前ですが、二人の子を持つ親になったのは三年前ですから、私達と息子はその意味で同じ年と言えます。人は子を持つことで、親としての自覚が芽生え、その子の成長を願いながら子供と共に生きようとする親の姿が形成されていきます。子供の人生にとって大切なものは結果ではなく、その過程であると言います。それだけに子供が育ちゆく環境が何よりも大切なのだということです。

親である以上、私達は常に子供の成長を願っています。しかし、ただ我が子の成長を漠然と願うだけでは意味がありません。子を育てるとは、親がその子と共に生きて成長することをいふのです。子は親によつて育てられ、親もまた子を通して育つていくのです。ここに親子は同じ年であるといわれる所以があります。この度の初参式に出席して下さったご家族に今一度心からお祝い申し上げます。この初参式は親御さんの一人ひとりの新たな出発点であり、皆さんのお子さんによつて与えられた尊い仏縁です。人が人を親として人に育てられるから、人となつていくように、生きとし生けるものが阿弥陀さまのお育てにあずかつたならば、私達も必ず仏となる道が開かれます。どうかお念仏に香る家庭を目指して、共に泣き、共に笑い、共に学びながら、幼いいのちの成長を親としての成長と受け止めて、共に生かされる喜びをしっかりと味わっていたきたいと切に願っております。

## 仏婦 2016年5月会報

- 1) 4月10日(日)午前10時、花祭り法要が厳修された。講師は、センシムン仏教会駐在会開教使古本竜太師。花御堂は、日校生並びに家族の奉仕で作成された。昼食は、会員の持ち寄りで行はれた。当日は、婦人会のバークセールが行はれた。
- 2) 4月17日(日)午前10時、アースデー、地球の日法要が厳修される。地球環境、美しい自然環境に感謝する日。
- 3) 5月15日(日)午前10時、降誕会法要。講師は、宮地信夫ガーデナ仏教会開教使。5月14日(土)午後7時、宮地先生を囲む会が、サンガホールで行はれる。
- 4) 6月18日(土)南部教区仏教徒大会が、サンディエゴ市ミッションパールの、クラウンプラザホテルで、開催される。主催は、サンディエゴ仏教会とピスタ仏教会共催。婦人会参加費は、一人40ドル。午前9時から午後4時まで。当日は、数多くの日英両語によるスピーカーを用意しています。当日、婦人会民芸品のセールが行はれます。
- 5) 民芸品作成日：毎週午前10時から午後2時まで。編み物のクラスもあります。

- 6) チラシ寿司作成への援助  
日時：5月13日(金)午前9時半、5月14日(土)午前7時  
「重要」5月15日(日)午前6時一ご飯炊き、その他午前7時。
- 7) タイチの講習：講師：マデイラ氏。毎週金曜日。午前10時から11時まで。アネックスにて。連絡は、(619)239-0896。
- 8) 5月8日(日)午前8時半 母の日朝食会。母は、無料。その他—5ドル。ジュニア仏青主催。
- 9) 5月21日(土)午前11時 巻き寿司講習会  
講習料：5ドル
- 10) 4月3日(日)会議 当番A  
4月17日(日)当番 C, D  
バークセールに協力有難うございました。
- 11) 婦人会ホームページ：southerndistrictbwa.weebly.com
- 12) 次回定例会議：5月1日(日)午前11時45分  
当番：B

SHOTSUKI HOYO — MONTHLY MEMORIAL (May 1),  
SPRING FURNITURE "Plus" SALE (May 7),  
GOTAN-E (FUJIMATSURI) & HATSUMAIRI (May 15)

The **May Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo)**, will be observed on **Sunday, May 1** in conjunction with the Family Service beginning at 10 a.m. Shotsuki is an opportunity to remember family members and friends who passed away during the month of May.

On **Sunday, May 8**, prior to the family service, the Jr. YBA will be having its annual Mother's Day breakfast from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the Annex Hall. Moms are free! All other guests are \$5.

**Saturday, May 14**, please join us for a lecture with Rev. Nobuo Miyaji at 7 p.m. in the Sangha Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Please join us as we observe **Gotan-E** on **Sunday, May 15** at 10 a.m. Our guest speaker will be **Rev. Nobuo Miyaji** of the Gardena Buddhist Church. **Gotan-E** celebrates the birth of SHINRAN SHONIN (1173-1262), founder of Shin Buddhism. The life and teachings of Shinran Shonin constitute one of the most significant developments in the history of Buddhism, for it was Shinran who discovered a path for the lay person which ensured that the treasures of the Dharma would be accessible to all people without discrimination.

This observance is also called **Fujimatsuri** (Wisteria Festival), after the purple flower which represents our denomination. Though the flowers grow high on intertwined branches of a tall and sturdy tree, unlike other flowers which stand up when in full blossom, the wisteria hangs down, as if in humility.

The **Hatsumairi**, "Infant Presentation Ceremony", will take place at 9 a.m., prior to the Gotan-e service. Families of young children are encouraged to have this ceremony performed by Kenji-sensei in front of Amida Buddha. Please contact the temple to sign-up and/or for more information. Deadline is May 8.

*An envelope is enclosed if you would like to make an offering for Gotan-E. For those who subscribe to the Bussei Script online, we invite your Gotan-E donation. As always, the Temple looks forward to your participation and is very grateful for your support.*

JAPANESE CULTURAL  
BAZAAR



THEME:

**RICE**

**SUNDAY JUNE 5, 2016 11 AM - 4PM**

**BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO  
2929 MARKET ST., SAN DIEGO, CA**

**PLEASE JOIN BTSD**

For Its Annual

**FUNDRAISING EVENT!**

**ENJOY A DAY FILLED WITH...**

- \***FOOD** (lots of it!) ~  
Teriyaki chicken, Chow Mein, Sushi,  
tacos and more!
- \***DEMONSTRATIONS /  
EXHIBITS**
- \***SILENT AUCTION**
- \***OPPORTUNITY DRAWING**
- \***DISPLAYS** (on the Bazaar theme)
- \***TAIKO**
- \***GAMES & CRAFTS**

**\*\*To Volunteer, call or sign-up at the temple**

