

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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SEPTEMBER 2016

Expanding Awareness & Acceptance

By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Resident Minister



The American sangha comes from many diverse religious, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. As such, we should not assume a familiarity to the Japanese perspective that comes with the Jodo Shinshu teachings. As I relate more traditional stories and familiar terms in Buddhism, I will be suggesting some expanded definitions. These defini-

tions are not more correct. Our expanding awareness means that these additional interpretations may be more inviting and inclusive and provide a clearer, more contemporary meaning to traditional stories.

The Nembutsu, *Namo Amida Butsu*, is the heart of Shin Buddhism. It is not just a verbal expression, it is an experience of life. It has been described as our main practice. But this description can lead to confusion. My own journey to grasp the essential meaning of the Nembutsu, led me to the study of spiritual (transpersonal) psychology, some 35 years ago. This major branch of psychology has been heavily influenced by Buddhist concepts, in order to understand the human relationship to the spiritual realm. I began to see a parallel of modern, English words with 13th century Japanese terms. I realized that Shinran's appreciation of Amida's Compassion, could be understood as receiving the efforts of many others. This was different from an attempt to achieve some ideal spiritual status. As I began to find many common, daily conditions to express my appreciation, my life got better. I modeled my grandmother's appreciation of common, ordinary things (*arigattai*). This shift from "please" to "thank you" was a very practical way of understanding that the *Namo Amida Butsu*, is a deep expression of gratitude, rather than a petition or prayer for something else.

Hopefully, many of you have taken this suggestion to become aware of many common situations to say "thank you." As our daily desires ("please") decreases, our gratitude ("thank you") increases. Joy is the sign that we are on the right path. A progressive, step-wise approach is important in any learning process. The 8-Fold Path is the classic model of steps in Buddhism. The next step would be to interchange

"thank you" with "Na Man Da Bu." This provides a familiar experience of *Namo Amida Butsu* and expands our awareness beyond a mental definition of words.

The 18th or Primal Vow in the Larger Sutra, is the fundamental mythology that presents the Nembutsu. Shinran demonstrated his integrity in interpreting this sutra within his own experience. His personal honesty challenged the methods maintained by the monastic, Tendai traditions of Mt. Hiei. He therefore left Mt. Hiei to follow Honen. Although he was honoring the teachings of his master, Honen, Shinran's interpretation is significantly different. Shinran's interpretation of the Nembutsu is validated by the research and practices of transpersonal psychology. A basic need of any human is to be accepted by a greater group. From our primitive roots, it has been essential for humans to survive as a member of a tribe or group. The Buddha relates this in the myth of the Bodhisattva Dharmakara becoming Amida Buddha. The Primal Vow assures all sentient beings of a spiritual awakening without any conditions.

Think about your activities of a given day. I know I always think about my appearance when leaving my home. Even when I'm dressing casually, I make sure that I'm not too casual and not too dressed up. I want to be acceptable. Our young people seemed to be obsessed, with belonging to a group. This is a natural instinct of humans.

We have an image of Amida Buddha in statue or picture form. He is leaning forward to accept us. His robe is open to expose his heart to us. He has the hand gestures (*mudras*) that convey the message of acceptance. We are reminded of his assurance of accepting us, just as we are. The Nembutsu is our affirmation of this acceptance and our response of gratitude for this basic human need.

What would be greater than to belong to a group or sangha, whose principle value is to be accepted? Of course, as humans, we have our limits of acceptance. Yet, this is our ideal. It is something we strive for. Being good over bad, or right over wrong, has its challenges. And so is accepting others and being accepted.

I have found this quality of friendliness and acceptance very prevalent at this temple. Many visitors and new members have expressed a similar view. I want to acknowledge this trait that is so natural to many of this sangha, that it may not be recognized. Let us expand this acceptance of others, especially toward those who may appear different from each of us. This is the Nembutsu working both ways. By accepting others, each of us fulfills the need to be accepted ourselves. *Namo Amida Butsu*.

SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 SD Jr. YBL Conference @ L.A. Betsuin
4 Temple Closed SD Jr. YBL Conf. @ L.A. Betsuin	5 Temple Closed	6 10:30 a.m. – SD Minister’s Mtg. @LA Betsuin	7 10 a.m. – Craft Day @D.R. 12 p.m. – Minyo Group @S.H. 1 p.m. – Shigin @ C.R. 6:30 p.m. – Taiko @ A.H 7 p.m. – Buddhism 1-2-3, S.H.	8 6:45 pm – Board of Directors Mtg. @Conf. Rm.	9 7:30 p.m. – SD Council Mtg @ Gardena	10 10 a.m. – Koto Class @S.H.
11 9 a.m. – DS Staff Mtg. @ C.R. 10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE Shotsuki Memorial 11:30 a.m. – BWA Mtg @ C.R. 11:30 a.m. – Jr. YBA Mtg. 11:30 a.m. – Taiko Practice @ AH	12 Temple Closed	13	14 12 p.m. – Minyo Group @S.H. 1 p.m. – Shigin @Annex 1-2 6:30 p.m. – Taiko @ A.H 7 p.m. – Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H.	15	16	17 7 p.m. Finding Balance with Rev. Laverne Kenyo Sasaki, Retired Emeritus
18 10am - Higan Service with Rev. Laverne Sasaki, Emeritus 12 Noon -- Sangha Potluck lunch- eon, Annex Hall	19 Temple Closed	20	21 10 a.m. – Craft Day @ D.R. 12 p.m. – Minyo Group @S.H. 1 p.m. – Shigin @ C.R. 6:30 p.m. – Taiko @ A.H 7 p.m. –Buddhism 1-2-3, S.H.	22	23	24 10 a.m. – Koto Class @S.H. 4:30-5:45 p.m. BTSD Chicken Katsu Dinner/ VFW Bingo @ 6 p.m.
25 9 a.m. – INTRO. TO BUDDHISM @S.H. 10am – DS/Family Service 11:30 am – Taiko	26 Temple Closed	27	28 9:30 a.m. -- Bussei Script mailing 12 p.m. – Minyo Group @S.H. 1 p.m. – Shigin @ C.R. 6:30 p.m. – Taiko @ A.H 7 p.m. – Buddhism 1-2-3, S.H. 7 p.m. – Activities Mtg, C.R.	29	30	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By LuAnn Lee, Board President

Well, we out did ourselves, two O Bons! When we first realized that we had an extra weekend in July this year, we starting talking about the possibility of having a smaller OBon for our temple and the larger community one at Balboa Park. We knew that we needed the support of Sensei and the BTSD members and lots of volunteers. You did not disappoint! Our success was because of all of you that made the time to volunteer, purchased food and goods, spread the word about the two events and participated in the O Bon Odori's. A Special Thank you to Ken Muraoka and Michael Kinoshita for taking the lead! What a great team effort.

As another O Bon season quickly becomes fond memories, our fundraising efforts continued in August with the annual rummage sale and golf tournament. The Asian Food and Craft Fair will be replaced with the Temple's 90th Anniversary Service to include the Kieshiki Ceremony officiated by Bishop Umezu, celebratory luncheon and Junior YBA/Temple Reunion. I hope we can get 100 percent participation for this memorable event.

You should have received your 90th Anniversary letters from the temple. One letter gives you the overview of what is happening on the weekend of October 15 and 16 and the other letter talks about the 90th Anniversary Fundraising Project. One of the reasons for this campaign is to upgrade our aging electrical system and address safety issues. The temple's to do list is long and we are constantly finding issues that need attention.

We appreciate all of you that donate time, goods and monies, sometimes without ever getting credit or reimbursed. This giving is from the heart and nothing in return is expected.

We can't thank you enough but know we are deeply grateful for your generosity and kindness.

In Gassho,
LuAnn Lee

BWA NEWS

I hope you had a chance to attend the O Bon Festival that was jointly hosted by the Japanese Friendship Garden and our temple in Balboa Park. There was delicious food, great entertainment, and fun activities, including our Bon Odori in the Organ Pavilion on Saturday, August 6, and the Toro Nagashi the next evening. A great big "Thank You!" to Ken Muraoka, Michael Kinoshita, and everyone else who generously gave their time and effort to make the event such a great success!

The craft group returned to the first and third Wednesdays of the month schedule, in August, taking some well-deserved rest after the whirl wind creating of crafts sold in Balboa Park. There were a lot of satisfied customers. Domo Arigato to Kiku Graeber, Ruby Hara, and all the crafters who have been so busy creating beautiful items! Please stop by and check it out! Learn some new crafts, and share in their scrumptious potluck lunches.

Four BTSD BWA members and Kenji Sensei are signed up to attend the 44th FBWA Conference to be held in Bellevue, WA, near Seattle, at the Westin Hotel on October 7-9. Also attending will be Kelli Kato, one of the two young women chosen to participate in the FBWA Youth Exchange Program. She will be speaking at the FBWA General Meeting on October 9, and will be writing an article with Katelyn Morimoto, which will appear in a future Wheel of Dharma.

Thank you to the many BWA members who helped out at the two Bon Odoris and two-day Rummage Sale! It was a lot of work, but very fun and rewarding!

The temple's 90th anniversary celebration will take place on October 16. Please be sure to reserve your bento for luncheon. In conjunction with the service and luncheon, there will be an ochigo parade that day, and Jr. YBA reunion activities on Saturday. Don't miss out!

There are two 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 meeting will be September 11, with Group D hosting. Hope to see you then! Stay cool!

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met on August 11:

1. A brief overview of the temple's Obon and the Balboa Park/Japanese Friendship Garden Obon was given. There will be more discussion and more detailed financial information at the Activities Committee meeting.
 2. A fiscal year end deficit of \$6500 is projected.
 3. The Board approved an adjustment to the amount approved for presentation by the Scholarship committee.
 4. Thank you to Ken Muraoka, Tad Muraoka and Michael Kinoshita for the parking lot improvements. The lot was re-asphalted and re-stripped and the center pole lighting repaired.
 5. Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi and Akira Sumida will participate in the La Mesa Interfaith World Peace Day, Sept. 25.
 6. The temple will have representation at the Nisei Week Pioneer luncheon at which member Dr. Terry Tanaka will be honored and at the Japanese Friendship Garden August Moon event at which the Muraoka family will be honored.
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Temple Activities Message

By Glenn Torio

We've made it through our double O Bon for 2016 with flying colors! I for one really enjoyed our "Temple" O Bon held on July 31. That feeling of the "old days" with service beginning at two and the odori finishing before dark, although in the past we didn't finish until well after dark. We will discuss the pros and cons of this year's double O Bon events and go forward from there. The same discussion will occur at the Garden on the future of the festivities. My thank you goes out to all who helped and participated in the events for the two weekends. I know there were some long days... and nights for several people.

As you read this, our summer rummage sale is in the bag! This event is one of the most labor intensive, with pick-ups, sorting parties and then the two-day sale! A special thank you goes to Ken Muraoka Thanks go out to all those who donate their one-time treasures for without the donations we will not have the "rummage" sale, White Elephant Shop or O Bon Again Shop. Take a little breather until our next event comes around!

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

With the calendar turning to September, family vacations are over, kids are back to school and the Dharma School/Family services are about to resume.

I hope that all of the new and returning students, and their families are ready for the 2016-17 term that will begin on September 11. All services start at 10 a.m. and will be followed by Dharma School classes.

Acceptance will be our theme for upcoming term.

Our Dharma School program is offered to children as young as two-years-old, and for elementary, middle school, high school and first year college students. Each Sunday, students will receive meaningful Dharma messages from Kenji Sensei and helpful guidance from the teaching staff. We look forward to welcoming returning students and encourage new students to join us.

Following the September 11 service, Dharma School will host hospitality. Please stay and have refreshments and socialize with family and friends.

At our July staff planning meeting, teachers picked their grades and classrooms. Here are the classes and teachers -- Pre-School/Kindergarten: Mrs. Leslie Seymour, Mrs. Kimberly Kruse, and Mrs. Trina Okita; Grades 1 and 2: Mr. Gregg Yonekura and Ms. Laura Henschen; Grades 3 and 5: Mrs. Avis Honda; Grades 6, 7 and 8: Ms. Jamie Shimizu and Mr. Ralph Honda; Grades 9-12 and College: Mr. Roy Okuhara

Here is the staff for 2016-17 -- Superintendent: Avis Honda; Assistant Superintendent: Sharon Sasaki; Recording Secretary: Jamie Shimizu; Corresponding Secretary: Karen Okuhara; Treasurer: Roy Okuhara; Music Chairperson: Ann Ong; O Bon Music Chairperson: Junko Kajita; Birthday Treasures Chairperson: Laura Henschen.

Upcoming Dharma School activities for October include the temple's 90th Anniversary and the Halloween Service and Party.

Please consider your student to be a part of BTSD history by participating in the temple's 90th anniversary. Children up to the age of 9 are encouraged to be a part of the O Chigo parade. Children ages 10-year-old and above will be included in the parade and will be asked to wear a kimono. Please fill out the form found in this month's Bussei Script and return it to Avis Honda or the Dharma School mail slot in the temple office no later than September 25.

For the 90th Anniversary, Dharma School will stage a "Community Chain" art project prepared by students, teachers, staff and Sangha. More will be shared at Sunday services.

Students and parents are encouraged to wear their costumes for the annual Halloween Service and party on Sunday, October 23 at 10 a.m. More Information to come.

The next teacher/staff meeting will be on Sunday, September 11 at 9 a.m.

Gassho,
Avis Honda, Superintendent

CAMPERS SHARE SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE

During the week of July 30 through August 6, Dharma School students Chad Sasaki, Jenna Sasaki, Ava Yamamoto and Zoe Yamamoto spent one week of their summer attending the Los Angeles Buddhist Coordinating Council (LABCC) Camp at Camp Morningstar in the San Bernardino mountains.

The BTSD campers were among over 150 kids, ages 8 through 13, who represent the various Buddhist churches and temples in Southern California.

The campers wish to share their summer experience with Bussei Script readers:

Chad Sasaki, who said that he had a great time, mentioned that since this is the year of the Olympics, everything was a competition. Chad was especially proud of his bullseye he achieved on the final day of camp. He also enjoyed the dance with his fellow campers (ages 11-13). Chad also said that he will miss "Camp Chef" Ms. Bessie Tanaka, who coordinated the daily meals.

Jenna Sasaki was a bit sentimental reflecting that her last six years of LABCC camp went by so fast. "I can't believe that I am already aged out of camp!" Jenna said that she has many of memories at camp, saying that LABCC was the highlight of her summer every year. Jenna continued to say that she will miss every part of her camp experience but looks forward to her return as a CIT (Counselor in Training) and camp counselor. "I will miss my cabin mates, but all of the memories will last forever."

Ava Yamamoto said that her favorite activity was arts and crafts. "I really had fun making different crafts. We submitted a craft at the end of the week into an art contest." Ava also enjoyed the "gourmet" camp food. There was swimming and archery competition with cabin groups competing against each other. Winners received special prizes. Ava's absolute favorite part of camp was the closing night campfire with counselors, staff members and cabin groups participating in skits. Ava said that it was fun to watch other cabin group skits and also fun to do your own.

Zoe Yamamoto cherished the opportunity to be reunited with returning campers and make new friendships – friends for life. Zoe enjoyed the overnigher of sleeping under the stars and learning many things about Buddhism. Fun activities included archery, swimming, hiking, canoeing, and arts and crafts. "I feel like I have made more good friends at LABCC than anywhere else." She also said that it was nice meet young Buddhists from other temples. In closing Zoe recommends all kids from BTSD to participate.

As you can see, each camper had memorable experiences to share. LABCC is a wonderful opportunity blending religious and social activities offered by ministers and counselors. Information regarding LABCC Camp 2017 will be announced in March.

UPDATE for Temple Scholarships

The August listing of scholars receiving awards omitted one recipient's name in error. We are very happy to correct that oversight by reporting that Kenji Martinez, son of Temple Member Yuko Niwa, received the Ben Honda Memorial Scholarship for a graduating high school senior. A graduate from University City High School, Kenji has begun his college studies at Miramar College.

~ Bill Teague, Scholarship Co-chair

JR. YBA NEWS

Our Jr. YBA hosted 16 members, two chaperones, and Rev. Diane Thompson from the Tri-State Denver Jr. YBA Sunshine Tour group, July 15-17. BTSD members and friends hosted a potluck dinner on Friday evening. On Saturday, San Diego members and parents cooked breakfast. After a morning service, the Denver group, along with six San Diego members traveled to Little Tokyo in L.A., then participated in the OCBC Bon Festival in the evening. On Sunday, the kids cleaned up, ate breakfast, attended service and departed for Las Vegas. It was a good experience for the San Diego group to meet and host new friends from a different district.

O Bon Opportunity Drawing Thank You!

Last month, during the temple's Bon Odori in Balboa Park, the Jr. YBA conducted its annual Opportunity Drawing fundraiser. There were many prizes as well as happy winners. Congratulations to Miyoko Yamanishi who won the first prize of \$800. Second prize winner of \$500 went to Jon Kawamoto of San Francisco. Lucy Himaka won the third prize, a 40 inch television. Ken Muraoka won the fourth prize of \$110 gift card package. In all, we presented 48 prizes. Congratulations to all of the winners!

We wish to thank the donors for their generous contributions towards the drawing. They included: 3D's Travel, Doug Ojiri (ticket printing); Agnes Benson; Coronado Island Valero, Setsuo and Jan Iwashita; Hanaoka's Restaurant; Hogetsu Bakery; Honda Tours, Miki Honda; Ralph, Avis and Breven Honda; Island Style Café; Japanese Friendship Garden; Kanpai Restaurant; Kei Dan Floral Design, Naomi Himaka; Kris Tokunaga; Harold and LuAnn Lee; Nancy Martinez; Napoleone's Pizza House; Peking Restaurant; and Sushi Deli.

Thank you to Sara Matsumoto, Mike and Ann Ong, and Ron and Kris Tokunaga who helped us in the booth, walked around to sell tickets, and during the drawing.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supported the drawing. Net proceeds help our very active group participate in various religious and social activities throughout the year. *Arigato!*

Conference and New Term

Eight members will attend the Southern District Jr. YBL Conference on September 3 and 4 at the Los Angeles Betsuin and Double Tree Hotel in Little Tokyo. The theme is "Back to the Basics: Before Anything Else" and is being hosted by the Nishi Jr. YBA. A wrap up of the conference will appear in the October Bussei Script.

Our first meeting for the new term will be on September 11. We welcome back all returning members and invite prospective new members from 9th-12th graders and college freshmen to join the group.

Jr. YBA is geared for high schoolers and focuses on religious and social activities. Current members will admit that Jr. YBA is a lot of fun because you get to meet young Buddhists from other temples. The local chapter hosts various activities throughout the year including a Halloween Party for the Dharma School, Thanksgiving Basket food drive, Chow Mein Luncheon fundraiser, Mother's Day Breakfast and many more. Looking forward to seeing everyone on September 11!

Attention all Jr. YBA Alumni and Friends

The current members hope that you are making plans to attend the 65th San Diego Jr. YBA Reunion "Turn Back the Clock" on October 15. The reunion will be held in conjunction with the temple's 90th anniversary that will be observed on October 16. The reunion will also be open to all temple members.

Activities will begin with bowling at Kearny Mesa Bowl, followed by a dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley.

Registration is \$65 per person. The deadline to register for the event is September 25. A registration handout and registration form appears in this issue. Please contact our advisor Ralph Honda at (619) 885-3788 or email: rkhonda205@gmail.com for more information. The reunion is open to all temple members and friends of the Jr. YBA. It will be great to reminisce on your Jr. YBA days!

In Gassho,

Breven Honda, First Vice President

TWO-DAY RUMMAGE SALE BRINGS GOLD TO BTSD

Coinciding with the closing ceremonies of the 2016 Rio Olympics, brought the end of another successful BTSD Rummage Sale! We wish that we could give medals to all of our participants because everyone put in herculean efforts to make the sale a success. We were able to earn over \$5000 to help the temple meet its operating expenses.

Our thanks go to many including our generous donors, the donation pick-up posse (special thanks to Ken Muraoka for the use of his time and truck for the many pick-ups throughout the county), our able advertisers - Craigslist, Chula Vista Star News, Facebook and the San Diego UT were used, the kitchen crew who kept the volunteers happy and well-fed and those who brought a dish to share for the meals, the talented tactical Rummage Sale team – the sorters, pricers, stagers, cleaners, recyclers, sales helpers, tidiers, cashiers, security, and the clean-up crew.

Many thanks to: Aki, Akira, Alice, Angie, Ann Y, Bill, Carol, Carolyn, Christina, Clayton, Debbie, Dick, Ed, Edna, Efton, Ellie, Emma, Erik, Finn, Floyd, Fusako, Gale, Glenn N, Glenn T, Gregg, Harold, Holly, Isaac, Jake, Janet, Jeanne I, Jeanie K, Jenna, Joe, John, Joyce, Junko, Karen A, Karen O, Karen W, Kaytee, Kenji Sensei, Kenji M, Ken, Kiku, Kim, Laura H, Laura Y, Laurine, Leslie, Linda, LuAnn, Margo, Margie, Maria, Marie, Mike, Miki, Mildred, Mitch, Miyo, Nancy, Naomi, Patty, Ralph, Richard, Ron, Roy, Ruth, Sage, Sean, Shirley, Smitty, Sumi, Susan M, Susan Y, Tim, Trace, Trina, Tsune, Veronica, Yuki, Yuko, Yuri.

If anyone was missed, sincere apologies – it was unintended as we want to give a shout out to all of our great helpers. Everyone's efforts were truly appreciated.

Unsold donations were given to Rachel's Center, people and/or organizations doing outreach in Tijuana and Ensenada, the County Animal Shelter, Chollas Lake Book Nook, and Deseret Industries.

There are many parts involved with coordinating this event. It is a lot of work but it is one of the few events where we really make connections with the neighbors in our community.

With the closing out of this year's sale, Glenn Torio, Susan Moribe and Nancy Martinez, three of your Sales Committee chairs are stepping down. Kaytee Sumida is volunteering to stay on as a co-chair. We would like to hand over this fundraiser to others with new energy, ideas, and organizational and leadership skills. We couldn't have done the past 10 years without the hard work and good-natured help of all of you. We ask for your continued support for the new chairpersons.

In Gassho,

Glenn T, Sue M, Kaytee S and Nancy M

BTSD SERVES DELICIOUS LUNCH AT GARDEN VILLAS

A heartfelt thank you is extended to Margo Spears and her volunteer crew for preparing lunch for the Garden Villas (formerly Kiku Gardens) senior lunch program on Friday, August 12. The menu included delicious sweet and, sour pork, green salad, broccoli, rice and dessert. Approximately 50 seniors attended the luncheon.

Temple volunteers who assisted Margo included Janice Cooper, Ruth Voorhies, Miki Honda, Ralph Honda and the Garden Villas staff.

BTSD, along with other community groups prepare and serve lunch each Friday. The temple's next opportunity to host will be Friday, October 7.

Thank you to temple member Mildred Kawasaki who volunteers her time at Garden Villas to coordinate the weekly lunches with the community groups. If you are interested in helping prepare or attend the luncheon, please contact the temple.

Enjoy Fridays with a hearty and nutritious lunch for seniors and spend time with friends from 12 noon to 1 p.m. The cost is only \$3. Garden Villas is located at 1260 Third Avenue in Chula Vista.

BINGO UPDATE

BENEFIT CHICKEN KATSU DINNER AND BINGO

After taking a break in August, the monthly BINGO resumes on Saturday, September 24. The session begins at 6:00 p.m. Buy-in is \$10 for up to 12 games.

Prior to BINGO, the temple will host a benefit Chicken Katsu dinner. For \$8 you may purchase delicious panko coated and deep fried chicken cutlet, served with salad, vegetable, rice and dessert. This will be the last benefit dinner for 2016.

In addition to having a chance to win BINGO, players have the opportunity to win consolation games and nice door prizes. Pull-tabs and marking daubers are available for purchase, as well as donuts, coffee and cold beverages.

Come out with family and friends, and enjoy an evening with a delicious Chicken Katsu dinner, followed by a chance to yell out BINGO! Players must be 18-years-old and above.

Net proceeds benefit the temple and Asian Pacific Post 4851, the group that oversees BINGO. Your support with the dinner and BINGO will be wonderfully appreciated.



BTSD HAS an AED in the dining room. Do YOU know how to use it?

Sign-Up to Learn CPR/First Aid & AID/AED Training. The six hour class will be held on a Saturday with a cost of \$40 per person. With more students, the price may be reduced. It's a small price to pay to learn to save a life. Call the temple to get signed up, or sign up when you are here. The sign-up sheet is on the counter in the office.

Buddhist Women's' Association
Craft Days
 WEDNESDAYS from
 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
 BTSD Dining Room
 Join us 1st & 3rd Wednesdays for some



BTSD 90th Anniversary Ochigo Parade

An Ochigo Parade is part of a Buddhist tradition when the temple celebrates special anniversary of a landmark event. Dharma School students will have the opportunity to participate in the Ochigo Parade as part of the 90th Anniversary commemoration. The boys and girls wear the traditional Japanese Ochigo costumes. Children up to 9-years-old are encouraged to participate and will be fitted in the various costume sizes. Children 10 –years-old and above will be asked to wear kimonos. Contact any Dharma School staff member for more information. Please complete the form below and return it no later than **September 25**.

Participant's Name _____

Age _____ Please circle: Boy Girl

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

MANY THANKS FOR SUCCESSFUL BON ODORI FESTIVALS

By Ken Muraoka, Chairman

For the first time, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego conducted its first two-day O Bon festival over two separate weekends, and in addition, participated in a bonus day event one day later. And, if you wish to compare this year's festival with 2015, the 2016 version definitely topped last year.

The first Bon Odori was held at the temple on July 31 and brought memories of a simpler time. It was joyful by the simple fact that there was really time for the Sangha to savor the whole Bon Odori. The committee pushed for a simple event, and proved to be an evening that everyone enjoyed. Approximately 200-300 members, family and friends enjoyed the temple O Bon.

LuAnn Lee took the lead in making sure everyone had a chance to eat. She went "old school" by bringing back the classic teriyaki chicken, chashu, and rice plate, and refreshing somen noodles. It was a weekend of many hands making light work.

The second Bon Odori was held on August 6 and took place at the Japanese Friendship Garden and Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. This event was on the other end of the spectrum that involved heavy advertising, a great deal of work, was largely attended, and was very enjoyable.

The complexity involved many moving parts which included food, drinks, entertainment, a beer garden, crafts, community groups, and craft vendors. Balboa Park being the venue automatically made for a beautiful setting which hosted over 1,500 patrons throughout the day and evening. I really think everyone who came out for the Bon Odori left with a smile on their face.

Starting at 10 a.m. and continuing until 9 p.m. made for a long day for many of us. A few temple members continued to work throughout the evening past 11:00 preparing for the next day. It was a day of many hands, but still lots of work.

On Sunday, August 7, the temple continued the O Bon weekend with the *Toro Nagashi*. Though the day wasn't well attended by visitors, we were still able to call the day a success. Kenji Sensei delivered a heartfelt talk that really made the event meaningful. A few of the attendees had tears in their eyes as they thought about the loved ones who impacted their lives.

COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

The Bon Odori Committee included: Michael Kinoshita, LuAnn Lee, Glenn Torio, Carol Baker, Karen and Roy Okuhara, Glenn Negoro, Gregg Yonekura, Bill and Joyce Teague, Aki Tomiyama, Nancy Martinez, Kimberly and Jeff Kruse, Junko and Tim Kajita, Ann and Mike Ong, Sue Moribe, Ralph Honda, Richard Matsumoto, and Rev. Akahoshi. Apologies if names were omitted. We are lucky to have such a reliable and prepared committee. On behalf of the 2016 Bon Odori Committee, THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this O Bon season a success.

I also want to thank the always reliable dance instructors: Junko Kajita, Avis Honda, JoAnn Katsuda-Hotta, Kimberly Kruse, Susan Moribe, Shirley Omori, Ann Ong and Jamie Shimizu. They did a fine job with practices and leading two evenings of dancing.

To all the many volunteers who had a hand in making the 10 days of Bon Odori a success, Thank you. I look down my list of what needed to be done just to make the two Odori's happen, and it's a long list, but we got it done thanks to all of you.

I especially want to thank the late night crew who worked crazy long hours to pull these events off. They are Michael, Yasuko and Trevor Kinoshita, Luann and Harold Lee, Glenn Torio, Gregg Yonekura, and Bryant Shimizu. Their efforts kept everything moving forward and without them everything would have simply stopped. I am deeply grateful for all of their efforts.

I also want to thank my family Sharyn, Trevor, and Cassidy for their patience and understanding during O Bon season when I disappear.

Finally, I would like to thank Michael, LuAnn, Carol and Junko for their hard work and dedication in making this year's Bon Odori possible.

If you wish to view photos from this year's festivities, please credit Yasuhiro Fujiki. You can download the link at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B-R9hZxtdbuLODIweHNXTFB4dHc>
In Gassho



REWARDING ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED FOR JR. YBA MEMBERS

The weekend of August 19-21 was busy and rewarding for two of the temple's Jr. YBA members, Breven Honda and Trina Muraoka.

Congratulations to Trina who received special recognition at the Equality is for Everyone Teen Poetry Awards Ceremony held on August 20.

Trina was one of four winners in the county-wide competition who read her winning piece to a captive audience.

Sangha member, Jim Moreno, assisted Trina with her poetry leading up to the award ceremony.

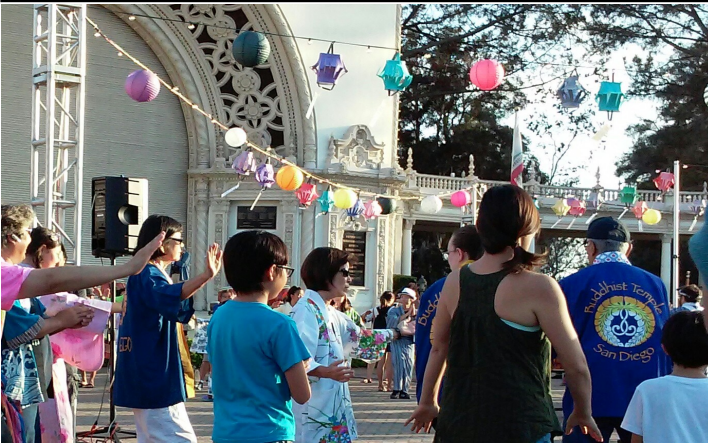
Awards were presented by the Friends of the Malcolm X Library in Valencia Park.

On Friday, August 19, Breven traveled north and participated in the Youth Ministers Assistants (YMA) Advanced Training program held at the Sacramento Betsuin.

Breven was reunited with his peers from YAC 11 and YAC 10 who engaged in a weekend of expanding their knowledge and appreciation of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu.

Each day, the 13 YMA participants conducted opening and closing services, and were critiqued by ministers on leading chanting and Dharma talk (howa) presentations. Workshops and seminars were conducted by Rev. Bob Oshita (Sacramento) and Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Florin Buddhist Temple).

Breven returned to San Diego on Sunday, August 21 and brought home a wealth of knowledge and homework for the next session.



Bon Odori

By Junko Kajita

Thank you to all the individuals who helped with the odori portion of the Bon Odori. First of all, we are grateful to the instructors; Avis Honda, JoAnn Hotta, Kimberly Kruse, Susan Moribe, Shirley Omori, Ann Ong, Jamie Shimizu, and Junko Kajita. An extra thank you to Shirley, Ann, JoAnn and Junko for teaching a couple of the dances at the Japanese Friendship Garden Kids' Camp on three Fridays. Thank you, also, to Eugene Hotta, Adam Azuma, Wilbur Shigehara, Breven Honda, and Tad Muraoka for distributing and collecting our dancing props. We extend our appreciation to John and Tsune Hashiguchi for providing the water, punch, and cups every year for our practices. Thank you, also, to the many dancers who brought delicious treats to share at our practices.

We appreciate Tim and Jason Kajita for setting up the speakers and taking charge of all the music. Thank you to Bill Teague for doing a fine job as M.C. A very special thank you to Marumi Fujiki, Chako Tachikawa, and Jay, who as members of the San Diego Kimono Club, helped us to dress in our yukata. Thank you to Yuko Niwa for contacting them for us. Also, special thanks to our own temple members Alice Aoyama, Wendy Nakamura, Susan Moribe, Kimberly Kruse, Yuko Niwa, and Junko Kajita for helping to dress our dancers. Thanks to the dedication of many people we were able to gather and dance eighteen different dances with joy and gratitude in our hearts and mind expressed

Obon Memorial Lanterns

By Junko Kajita

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to teach others the joy in making memorial lanterns for their loved ones who have passed. We extend our appreciation to Miyo Hill, Jeanie Kashima, Fred and Nancy Nakatani, Alice, Clare, and Emma Matsumoto, Adam Azuma, Janice and Wilbur Shigehara, and Jason Kajita who helped at the BTSD Bon Odori. At the Japanese Friendship Garden, we express our appreciation to Laverne Imori, Margie Kitano, Wendy Nakamura, Trina, Abby and Nicholas Okita, Naomi Tanaka, Maya Horiuchi, Carolyn Wood, Anri Fujiki, Karen Yamada-Amos, Naomi and Mich Himaka, Laura Yamaguchi, Janice and Wilbur Shigehara, and Jason Kajita. Thank you, also, to Smitty for donating many, many staplers, to Miyo for donating scissors and staplers, and to Junko for donating the construction paper.

This year four Hatsubon families participated in making their own lanterns and were deeply moved and grateful for the opportunity. Together they shared cherished memories of their loved ones as they thoughtfully and carefully worked to make their lanterns. It was a moving experience to share this time with them. Thank you to Wendy Nakamura for skillfully and beautifully writing the names of the loved ones of the Hatsubon families on the tags. Our appreciation is also extended to Margie Kitano, Kayo Beach, Louise Rendich, Victor Baker, Sarah Barnes, Joe Cordova, and Stephen Smith for painting the stunning sumi-e paintings on the inner lining of the lanterns for the hatsubon families who were not able to make their own lanterns. One hatsubon family member said that making the lanterns provided a type of closure for her.

At Sensei's request, the lanterns were also hung at the Bon Odori at Balboa Park the following week. For me, the presence of the lanterns helped to remind me of the meaning of Bon Odori. At the conclusion of the dancing, I noticed several individuals taking pictures of their lanterns as the tags waved in the evening breeze. Thank you to all the lantern volunteers for providing this meaningful experience.



Kieshiki ceremony and classes to be offered

The Kieshiki Ceremony is an opportunity for anyone to affirm their dedication to a Buddhist life, and receive a Buddhist name. You may select part of your Buddhist Name that reflects a core characteristic of you. And with this name, one may be reminded of the Shin Buddhist doctrine as it influences our life. So it is very important to be able to know the important concepts of Shin. Classes are being offered for anyone to learn the basics of Shin in 2 classes, A & B. Class A will be given on the 1st Wednesday of September and October. Class B will be given on the 2nd Wednesday of September and October at 7-8:30 pm in the Sangha Hall. A combined class will be given on Sunday, September 25, after our Service from 12-2:00 pm.

Attention Ralph's and Food 4 Less shoppers. On September 1, 2016, all Ralph's and Food 4 Less shoppers will have to re-register for the community rewards program. They have decided to do away with the letters and have you register in the comfort of your home. If you shop at Ralph's go to www.ralphs.com, click on Community, click on Community Contributions, click on 'Enroll Now.' If you don't have home computer access, please call 1-800-443-4438 for assistance.

If you shop at Food 4 Less go to www.for4less.com or www.foodsco.net, click on Community, click on Community Contributions, click on 'Enroll Now.' If you don't have home computer access, please call 1-800-443-4438 for assistance. Remember to do this on or after September 1.

As we approach the resumption of Sunday temple activities, we look forward to continuing the selling of scrip. Christmas is right around the corner and will be here before you know it. Remember that Great Lakes now sells Nordstrom scrip for all you Nordstrom shoppers.

Thank you!

90TH Anniversary Message

by Glenn Torio, Chairman

By now, you should have received information regarding the temples 90th anniversary celebration to be held October 16. The committee continues to plan the event to make it a memorable. If you have questions give the temple a call or ask a temple board member. If you have not signed up to participate in the Kieshiki Ceremony, officiated by Bishop Umezu, there is still time. I recommend taking advantage of such an opportunity to receive your Buddhist Name as I have in the past. We have begun to make improvements to the Hon-do (sanctuary) electrical system and general lighting in the parking lot and the Market Street entrance. If you haven't noticed the beautiful architecture, take a look up at the main entry way next time you're at temple.

90TH ANNIVERSARY

JOIN US ON OCTOBER 16 TO COMMEMORATE
THE LEGACY OF THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN
DIEGO ON THIS HISTORIC OCCASION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Kieshiki Buddhist Name Ceremony — 9:00 a.m.

O Chigo Parade with Dharma School students leading the procession — 10:15 a.m.

Group Photo "Don't be left out!" — 10:30 a.m.

90th Anniversary Service with commemoration message delivered by Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America — 10:45 a.m.

Luncheon, Keiro Kai Recognition and Entertainment following the service in Annex Hall — 12 noon (*Luncheon reservation deadline is Sunday, September 25*)

Jr. YBA 65th Year Reunion — Saturday, October 15. Sangha welcome to participate. See handout in this month's edition.



TEMPLE MEMBERS HONORED

Roy Muraoka (left) and Dr. Terry Tanaka were recognized for dedicated service to the community.



Dr. Terry Tanaka was honored at the Nissei Week Pioneer Luncheon in Los Angeles. He and his wife Naomi (wearing leis), are surrounded by family members. Photos by Tad Muraoka.



On August 17, Dr. Terry Tanaka was among five prominent members of the Japanese American community honored at the 76th annual Nissei Week Pioneer Luncheon. Dr. Terry was recognized for his service as a dentist, educator and renown lecturer throughout his career.

Roy Muraoka and his sons Tad and Ken were honored by the Japanese Friendship Garden at its annual August Moon Festival for their civic leadership contributions and dedicated involvement with the Japanese American community. The event was held on August 18.

The temple, which was well-represented at both events, extends heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Terry, Roy, Tad, Ken and their respective families for their achievements.



Roy Muraoka and sons, Tad and Ken, with family members, were honored at the Japanese Friendship Garden's August Moon Gala. Photo by Yasuhiro Fujiki.



Buddhism 1-2-3 resumes... SEPTEMBER 7 7:00 p.m. * BTSD Sangha Hall

BEC: Balance and What's in a Name?

The Buddhist Education Committee is happy to resume Buddhism 1-2-3 in September and the month provides opportunities in learning the formal background of Jodo Shinshu for folks looking to receive a Buddhist Name and for those looking for balance in their lives.

Buddhism 1-2-3 Schedule for Rest of 2016

In September Kenji Sensei will conduct the first two sessions (again dealing with the foundations of Shin Buddhism) and Dharma Friends helping lead the other two. We meet at 7 p.m. in the one-story Sangha Hall.

Sept. 7. Kenji Sensei on Basics of Jodo Shinshu (helping people prepare for *Kieshiki*)

Sept. 14. Kenji Sensei on Basics of Jodo Shinshu (helping people prepare for *Kieshiki*)

Sept. 21. Chanting, Meditation, Dharma Discussion

Sept. 28. Chanting, Meditation, Dharma Discussion

Also: Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Dec. 7 & 14.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- BUDDHISM 1,2,3 -- RESUMES ON SEPT. 7**
- SHOTSUKI HOYO (MONTHLY MEMORIAL) -- SEPT. 11**
- FINDING BALANCE--SEPT. 17, 7:00 pm with Rev. Sasaki**

Balance is one of the themes front and center twice a year during Ohigan services, when the equinox of day and night being the same length, suggest the importance of balance. The event is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served.

- FALL OHIGAN --SEPT. 18, 10:00 a.m. Guest Speaker: Rev. Kenyo Sasaki, BCA Emeritus, Retired**

Everyone is invited to attend this major service and welcome Rev. Sasaki. Following the service, a potluck luncheon will take place in the Annex Hall. The Board of Directors will provide main dishes. Attendees are asked to share their favorite side dishes, rice dishes and salads. The Dharma School will provide desserts.

- BTSD BENEFIT CHICKEN DINNER & BINGO -- SEPT. 24**
- TAI CHI -- Is still on Hold, Update in October**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK IT OUT INSIDE THE KAIHO

We invite your participation at our September events. Please check the calendar (page 2) for more activities. An envelope is included with this mailing if you wish to make a O Higan donation. Thank you for your support of the temple. Gassho.